



THE BANGLADESH TODAY

◆ UNITING PEOPLE EVERYDAY ◆

WEDNESDAY

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INTERNATIONAL

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Neuer up for
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Int'l Disabled and Nat'l Disabled Day today Social inclusion of disabled mandatory for sustainable development

JUWEL RANA

'Disability need not be an obstacle to success. I have had motor neurone disease for practically all my adult life. But I realize that I am very lucky, in many ways. My success in theoretical physics has ensured that I am supported to live a worthwhile life. It is very clear that the majority of people with disabilities in the world have an extremely difficult time with everyday survival, let alone productive employment and personal fulfillment', said Prof Stephen W Hawking.

- Disability: physical, mental and psychological impairments
- 1 billion people experience disability globally
- Facing discrimination in employment or transportation
- 9.93 % people disabled in Bangladesh (male: 11.10, female: 8.77)
- 13.91-19.37% disabilities rate in Rangpur division
- Types in Bangladesh: blindness, night blindness, deaf, cerebral palsy, kusta, achondroplasia, dhabal, goitre
- Advanced policies needed to mainstream disabled people
- Quota system not sufficient in their true inclusion
- Cusses: accident, illness, aging, by born or hereditary etc
- Cosmetic surgery, genetic screening, limb lengthening, cochlear implants, conductive education needed
- Initiating sign language in schools, barrier removal, awareness raising, legislative reformations

Disability refers to the physical, mental and psychological impairments of

persons that exclude them from participating in the mainstream social activities. According to the WHO, 'Disability is the umbrella term for impairments, activity limitations and participation restrictions, referring to the negative aspects of the interaction between an individual (with a health condition) and that individual's contextual factors (environmental and personal factors)'. Disability includes difficulties encountered in body function like paralysis; difficulties in executing activities e.g. walking; and problems with involvement in any area of life such as facing discrimination in employment or transportation. Disability is an important social agenda of informational society ensuring sustainable development with the revolutionary usages of technology in our daily life. We can understand this phenomena depicting disability condition of Bangladesh including types, causes and its socio-cultural construction.

Today (3rd December 2014) is the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. In 1976, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 1981 as the International Year of Disabled Persons and 1983-1992 the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons for implementation of plans at the national, regional and international levels, with an emphasis on equalization of opportunities, rehabilitation and prevention of disabilities. The theme of International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2014 is 'Sustainable Development: The Promise of Technology' focusing the role of technology in disaster risk reduction and emergency responses; creating enabling working environments and disability-inclusive sustainable development goals.

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Photo: Internet



Bergman found guilty of contempt of court

DHAKA : The International Crimes Tribunal-2 on Tuesday jailed British origin journalist David Bergman, working at the daily New Age here, simple imprisonment till rising of the court on charge of contempt of court for his campaign through scandalous and contemptuous writings, reports UNB.

The tribunal also fined him Tk 5,000 and he will have to serve seven days' simple imprisonment if he fails to pay the fine in seven working days from Tuesday, with a with a serious note of warning not to repeat such acts.

"We're of unanimous view that the contemnor is found guilty and responsible for making the offending scandalous comments using derogatory and unfair words and phrases that tended to attack and lower the authority and majesty of the tribunal for which the contemnor deserves punishment under section 11(4) of the Int'l Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973," said the tribunal while disposing of the contempt-of-court case.

Bergman, son-in-law of noted jurist Dr Kamal Hossain, a former minister during the post-independence government, served the sentence that lasted for just five minutes.

Malaysia to construct low-cost flats at Kamrangirchar

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia : Malaysia has shown interest in construction of low-cost flats under housing projects at Kamrangirchar to provide flats to the poor at an affordable cost, reports BSS.

Special Envoy of the Malaysian PM on Southeast Asian Affairs, Seri Samy Vellu, showed the interest as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina requested him for construction of such flats for low-income people of Bangladesh.

The Bangladesh Premier made the request when the envoy made a courtesy call on her at her hotel suite here this evening. She arrived in Kuala Lumpur yesterday on a three-day visit.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque said they discussed various matters relating to investment in Bangladesh, particularly in large-scale housing projects and infrastructure development.

Three issues came up in the discussion between the Prime Minister and the envoy, he said. The issues are: construction of housing for low-income people at Kamrangirchar in Dhaka, construction of a crude oil terminal at Single Mooring in Chittagong and import of rail coaches from Malaysia.



Former Prime Minister of Malaysia, Mahathir bin Mohamad had a meet with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Grand Hyatt Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Tuesday. PID

The Prime Minister requested the envoy mainly for construction of a number of multi-storey buildings for low-income people at Kamrangirchar.

Sami Vellu showed interest in this proposal of Bangladesh, the foreign secretary said, adding the poor people will get flats from these projects at an

affordable cost. The Malaysian envoy expressed desire for construction of a crude oil handling terminal at Single Mooring in Chittagong Port area.

The foreign secretary said Sami Vellu has submitted a proposal to the Prime Minister for selling 400 railway coaches to Bangladesh.

Dhaka seeks 100MW addl electricity from Tripura

DHAKA : Dhaka has urged New Delhi to give additional 100 MW of electricity to Bangladesh from Palatana Power Plant in northeastern Indian state of Tripura, reports UNB.

"We've sought 100 MW power in addition to the already promised 100 MW of electricity from the Palatana plant," said State Minister for Power and Energy Nasrul Hamid, talking to reporters on the sideline of a workshop on 'Power System Master Plan' at Bidyut Bhaban in the city on Tuesday.

He informed that New Delhi has agreed to provide the earlier promised 100 MW of electricity from Palatana plant and it will take nine (9) months' time to reach Bangladesh. At present, Bangladesh has been importing 500 MW of electricity from India through its western border.

India had promised to give another

100 MW power from its 720 MW Palatana power plant to reciprocate the good gesture shown by Dhaka in allowing its port and road communication facilities to be used by the Indian side to transport their massive equipments for the plant. Recently, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the second unit of the gas-fired Palatana power plant where Bangladesh state minister for power was present as a guest.

Referring to his discussion with the Indian high ups including the Indian prime minister, Nasrul Hamid said he believes that the neighbouring country will consider Dhaka's request for the additional 100 MW of power.

He also said that Bangladesh is waiting for the Bhutanese Prime Minister's Dhaka visit next week to discuss trans-border electricity import from the small Himalayan country.

CHT Commission concerned over 'partial implementation of peace accord'

It calls for roadmap for its full implementation

DHAKA : The International Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission has voiced concern over the government's lack of political will leading to the failure of full implementation of the CHT Accord even after 17 years of its signing, reports UNB.

It urged the government to urgently adopt and enforce a roadmap with clear milestones for implementation of the peace treaty, ensuring the full participation of all stakeholders.

In a statement on Tuesday, the CHT Commission said Awami League signed the accord with Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samiti (PCJSS) on December 2, 1997 and the present Awami League government has repeatedly pledged to implement it. It says peace and stability in the CHT continued to deteriorate throughout the two terms of the Awami League government and there has been no effort to strengthen local institutions and end land conflicts.

On November 23, 2014, parliament passed the three Hill District Councils amendment acts despite strong opposition from the indigenous community. The Ministry of CHT Affairs tabled the Rangamati Hill District Council (Amendment) Bill 2014, the Khagrachari Hill District Council (Amendment) Bill 2014 and the Bandarban Hill District Council (Amendment) Bill 2014 on July 1.

As a result, the number of interim members of the hill district councils will rise to 11 from the existing five, including three non-indigenous members, the statement says adding that the government has violated the accord by increasing the number of members without an election. The accord also stipulates the preparation of a voter list comprising only the permanent residents of the three hill districts. The CHT Commission also asked the government to start work on resolving land disputes immediately aiming to authenticate the permanent residents of the CHT and draw up a voter list and hold elections to the Hill District Councils.

The government has failed to dismantle all temporary camps as stipulated in the 1997 CHT Accord and the presence of security forces appears to be increasing. In recent years, the securitisation has also proliferated through other security forces like the Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB), according to the statement.

N'ganj 7-murder

3 more RAB men on 7-day remand

DHAKA : A court in Narayanganj on Tuesday placed three more members of Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) on a seven-day remand for quizzing in the sensational seven-murder case, reports UNB.

The three, identified as Abul Kalam Azad, 38, Bazlur Rahman, 45, and Nasiruddin, 38, were arrested by members of RAB-11 Comilla unit on Monday night from Shiddhirganj area in Narayanganj. Narayanganj Senior Judicial Magistrate Monwara Begum passed the order when officer-in-charge of the district Detective Branch of police Mamunur Rashid, also investigation officer of the cases filed in connection with the murders, produced them before his court seeking a 10-day remand. They were shown arrested in the case filed by Selima Islam Beauty, wife of slain Narayanganj city councillor Nazrul Islam. Seven, including Nazrul Islam, were abducted from the city on April 27. Their bodies were found floating on the Shitalakkhya River a few days later.

Journos form human chain protesting death of Zaglul in road mishap

DHAKA : Journalists formed a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club on Tuesday, protesting the death of renowned journalist Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury in a road accident in the capital, reports UNB.

They demanded exemplary punishment to the driver and any other people responsible for the accident. "The death of Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury was not an accident but a murder," said BFUJ president Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul while speaking at the human chain programme, organised by Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU).



Shakib Al Hasan might play in Big Bash League

SPORTS REPORTER

BCB president Nazmul Hassan has said Shakib Al Hasan's participation in this season's Big Bash League is all but confirmed. Hasan said the decision to overturn the embargo on his No-Objection Certificate (NOC) will be made official on Thursday after collecting the board members' signatures over the next two days.

Three weeks ago, Hassan had said Shakib was close to regaining his NOC for showing "leadership skills" in the Test series against Zimbabwe. Now he said Shakib would get a decision in time to find a Big Bash team, ahead of the tournament that begins on December 18.

> (Contd. on page-11)



Namaz Timings

Today

	Start	Jamaat
Fajr	05:06 AM	05:45 AM
Zohr	11:52 PM	01:15 PM
Asr	03:35 PM	04:15 PM
Magrib	05:14 PM	05:17 PM
Esha	06:37 PM	07:30 PM

Tahajjud After midnight

Source: Islamic Foundation

SUNSET : 05:11 PM

SUNRISE : 06:25 AM

Students can ensure clean campus, spread light: BRUR VC

RANGPUR : Vice-chancellor of Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur (BRUR) Professor Dr AKM Nurun Nabi said the students can ensure a clean campus with congenial atmosphere and spread the light of education in the society, reports BSS.

Dr Nabi, a population scientist of international repute, said this while inaugurating the week-long 'Clean Campus Safe Campus' campaign being conducted by BRUR unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) in the campus on Tuesday.

President of BRUR unit of BCL Mehedi Hassan Shishir and its General Secretary Mostafa Mahmud also addressed the launching ceremony of the campaign.

Executive Engineer of BRUR Jahangir Alam, General Secretary of the 'Blue Group' of teachers Belal Uddin, teachers Shahinur Islam, Zobaer Ibne Taher and Sabbir Ahmed, Section Officers Taposh Goswami and Atikuzzaman Suman, Planning Officer Abdur Rahim, Member-secretary of the employees' association Rashiduzzaman were present.

Earlier, the Vice-chancellor led a huge colourful rally brought out by BCL in the campus with the participation of hundreds of students, teachers, officers, employees,

members and activists of the reputed students' organisation. Later, Professor Nabi inaugurated the campaign taking part in the cleanliness drive with brushes in hands along with teachers, BCL leaders, common students, officials and employees. Speaking on the occasion, Professor Nabi called upon the students for acquiring adequate knowledge on the essence of cleanliness and keeping the campus as well as residential areas, homesteads and open places clean.

There is no alternative to maintaining cleanliness both at the campus as well as in all surrounding areas for keeping the air fresh, improving environment to attain sound health that is essential for every citizen.

Highly lauding the BCL initiative, he suggested the students for maintaining overall cleanliness at homes, educating their neighbours and others to reduce extent of diseases in building a healthier, meritorious and middle income nation.

President of BRUR unit of BCL Mehedi Hassan Shishir said the common students of the university have been showing keen interest and taking part in the wee-klong campaign that has been announced by the central committee of the students' organisation.



Citizen organizations arranged a human chain program demanding safe passage for physically challenged pedestrians while crossing over the road. The picture was taken at National Press Club on Tuesday. Photo: Banglar Chokh

1.5 kg gold seized at Ctg airport

Chittagong, Dec 02 (UNB) - Customs Intelligence officials arrested a young man in possession of 14 gold bars and 77 pieces of gold chain weighing 1.5 kilograms at Shah Amanat International Airport in the port city on Monday morning.

The arrestee was identified as Mohammad Rashid, 38, a resident of Rangunia upazila of the district.

Assistant Commissioner (Customs Intelligence) Shushanta Pal of the

airport said Rashid arrived here from Dubai by a flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, 'BG-048', at about 6:45 am.

Tipped off, customs officials challenged Rashid while crossing the green channel.

Later, they recovered 14 gold bars and 77 pieces of gold chain weighing 1.5 kgs after searching his body.

The market value of the recovered gold will be Tk80 lakh, said Shushanta Pal.

Road accident kills army man, injures 4 others in Sylhet city

SYLHET : An army man was killed and four people were injured when a truck rammmed into a CNG-run auto-rickshaw in Bateshwar Talerpara area in the city on the Sylhet-Tamabil Road on Tuesday morning, reports UNB.

The deceased was identified as Mizanur Rahman, 24, son of Nazir Uddin, a resident of Dibpur village in Baghmara thana of Rajshahi district.

Shirin, sub-inspector of Shahparan Police Station, said a speeding truck hit the CNG-run auto-rickshaw, carrying four army men including Mizanur, while going to Sylhet Cantonment at about 6:00 am, killing Mizanur on the spot and injuring four others - three other army men and the auto-rickshaw driver.

The four injured have been admitted to Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital.

Bangla Academy to celebrate 59th founding anniversary today

DHAKA : Bangla Academy has chalked out an elaborate programme to celebrate its 59th founding anniversary, slated for Wednesday, reports UNB.

Bangla Academy officials will place floral wraths at the Central Shaheed Minar to pay tribute to the language martyrs, said a release on Tuesday. A discussion meeting and cultural programme will be held at Rabindra Chattar on the Bangla Academy premises on 4pm. Essayist Prof Jatin Sarkar will give a lecture on literature in Bangladesh at the discussion, which will be chaired by Bangla Academy president and Dhaka University Prof Emeritus Prof Anisuzzaman.

Shimulia-Kewrakandi ferry services resume after 4 hrs

MUNSHIGANJ : Ferry services on the Shimulia-Kawrakandi route in the Padma river resumed after four hours' disruption caused by dense fog on Tuesday early morning, reports UNB.

Jasim Uddin, assistant manager of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) at Shimulia ghat, said they kept suspended ferry services and plying of the water vessels from 4:00 am to 08:00 am due to blurred visibility for dense fog. Three ferries with a large number of vehicles and passengers were kept anchored at Shimulia and Kewrakandi ferry terminals from 4.00am.

Several hundred vehicles were kept waiting on both sides of the river for crossing. However, ferry services resumed around 8:00 am as fog disappeared after the sunrise.



Parbattya Bhikkhu Parishad on Tuesday organized a human chain program at National Press Club protesting news published in print media. Photo: Banglar Chokh

Mujibul for developing RMG owner-labourer relations

DHAKA : State Minister for labour and Employment Mujibul Haque Chunnur yesterday put emphasis on developing the existing relations between owners and labourers to push the readymade garments sector ahead, reports BSS.

"Owners should keep in mind that the relations between owner and labourers are reciprocal. Existence of owners would be no more without labourers. So, there is no other way of developing relations of both the parties to protect the RMG industry," he said while inaugurating a workshop at BGMEA headquarters in the city.

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) organized the workshop on gender equity of RMG workers in association with UNFPA and Ministry of Labour.

A total of 40 RMG factory owners in Dhaka, Narayanganj and Chittagong were present at the workshop.

The minister stressed for further development of work environment in the factory to turn the sector as a sustainable industry.

Mentioning 80 per cent of the total RMG workers are females, Mujibul opined building awareness among the labourers on gender equity is necessary towards the development of work environment.

"The government is providing all kinds of assistances for the development of work environment . . . you (factory owners) develop and ensure work atmosphere. Safe work environment in factory has to be ensured to turn the sector more sustainable," added the state minister.

Argentina Matavel Piccin, UNFPA Representative, said if the work environment is developed, production in the sector would be boosted. She advocated for the elimination of mental harassment of female workers in the work place.

BGMEA President Atikul Islam said the female workers in RMG sector has been empowered now than any other time. The work environment of RMG factory has been development more, he added.

Dr Julia Ahmed made keynote presentation where she described the overall scenario of female workers.

2 killed in Ctg road crash

CHITTAGONG : Two people, including a minor boy, were killed and two others injured when a bus rammmed an auto-rickshaw at Chaturi in Anwara upazila on Tuesday, reports UNB.

One of the deceased was identified as Mohammad Tanvir, 8, hailing from Satkania upazila while the identity of the other deceased, aged around 45, could not be known immediately.

Khandakar Azad, sub-inspector of Anwara Police Station, said the Bashkhali-bound bus hit the CNG-run auto-rickshaw in the area around 2:15pm, leaving four auto-rickshaw passengers injured.

The injured were rushed to Anwara upazila health complex and Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH). Tanvir was declared dead at the upazila hospital while the unidentified man at the CMCH.

Titash Chy passes away

DHAKA : Writer and litterateur Prof Abu Taher Bhuiyan, popularly known as Titash Chowdhury, died at his residence on Road 7, Dhaka Cantonment early yesterday morning, reports BSS.

He was 71. Titash was suffering from old-age complications. He left behind wife, a son, a daughter, friends and admirers to mourn his death.

Before retirement, he served as vice-principal of Comilla Victoria College. He authored a number of books and edited a literary journal Alokt. He will be buried at Azimpur graveyard after Zohr prayer today following a namaz-e-zanjaja.

Int'l Short, Independent Film Festival begins in city Thursday

DHAKA : The 13th International Short and Independent Film Festival, under the auspices of Bangladesh Short Film Forum, will begin in the city on Thursday.


Finance Minister AMA Muhith is expected to inaugurate the eight-day festival at the National Museum Auditorium, reports UNB.

The slogan of this year's festival is: 'Free cinema, free expression'.

Briefing reporters at the Dhaka Reporters Unity on Tuesday, organisers said some 200 short and independent films from 40 countries will be screened at the festival.

Films will be screened at six venues in the capital -- National Museum, Central Public Library, Shilpakala Academy, Jagannath University, Russian Cultural Centre and Independent University Bangladesh.

Apart from film screening, the event will feature a talent-hunt programme, lectures, seminars, filmmaking workshops and special exhibitions.



CHITTAGONG DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

CDA BUILDING, CHITTAGONG.

Memo No. সিডি/স্বা/৩৩/নিয়োগ/৫৭২০/৪৪৭

Date: 02/12/2014

Invitation of Request for Expressions of Interest (EOI) For selection of Individuals Consultant (National)

Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) has received fund from the Government of Bangladesh towards the cost of Project namely – "Construction of Flyover at Muradpur, Gate No. 2 & GEC Junction, Chittagong." and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards eligible payments for services of an Individual Consultant under the Project.

Now CDA would like to invite Expression of Interest (EOI) for selection of Individual Consultant (IC) for Technical advice, Coordination and Management of the Project and also provide Technical services to the Chairman, CDA as and when required. Detailed description of services, qualifications and experiences of the Individual Consultant has been mentioned in the TOR and the expertise necessary to provide the services by the following IC has been mentioned in short:

i)

B.Sc. in Engineering (Civil) degree from any recognized University. Higher Score for candidate with Master degree in Civil Engineering. Minimum 15 years working experience in development projects such as Construction of Roads, Bridges, /Flyover etc with at least 5 years in procurement related jobs in GoB and Donor funded development projects. (Experience in Flyover construction will be give additional score) Should have satisfactory completion of procurement training. Training on Electronic Government Procurement (e-GP) will have additional score. Has expertise in use of National and internationally accepted contract documents for works, goods and services. Must have sound understanding of national (PPR) regulations and international agencies' procurement guidelines;

ii)

In depth knowledge and understanding of institutional, technical and commercial aspects of procurement at different phases of the project and basic knowledge of project cycle/implementation. Thorough understanding of the JICA and Donor funded Procurement procedure would be an advantage.

iii)

Work as Project Coordinator, Technical advisor, Planning and Management Specialist to assist concerned Project Director.

iv)

Strong conceptual analytical skills in handling procurement issues and dispute settlement.

v)

Demonstrated ability to achieve project objectives and procurement requirements with project needs and in resolving difficult issues by application of expert professional and sound judgment in providing Technical Services to the Chairman, CDA.

vi)

Ability to conduct analysis, identifying issues, formulating and evaluating options, reaching conclusions, submitting recommendations to the Project Directors in resolving technical and safety/security issues during execution of the Project.

vii)

Strong communication skills with ability to prepare present and discuss findings in written and oral form and represent CDA in various site/coordination meetings and report back to the Chairman, CDA.

viii)

Ability to function effectively in multidisciplinary team environment.

ix)

Technical understanding of Works, Goods and Services related procurement would be an advantage.

x)

Advising Project Director in contract management as well as technical issues of the project.

xi)

Readiness to travel field area and monitor Progress submit reports to the Project Director for updating Work Program considering ground situation.

xii)

Ability in computer operations with expertise in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Access;

xiii)

Strong proficiency in Bangla and English, both oral and written, is essential.

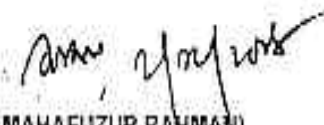
The individual Consultant will be selected as per PPR and contracted up to December 31, 2016 or up to the project period.

Salary : Negotiable.

The Project Director now invites eligible Individual Consultants to indicate their interest in providing the required services. Interested Consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services in the position. The applicants have to collect the "TOR" from the office of the undersigned or web sites of CDA to prepare the application. In addition to that, the intending candidates should attach 01 (one) copy of photograph and 01(one) photocopy each of all degrees/certificates, training and experience certificates along with the original application. Only the short listed candidates will be called for interview. Individual consultant will be selected in accordance with The Public Procurement Rules (PPR) 2008. Expressions of interest shall be submitted in sealed envelope, clearly marked "Request for Expressions of Interest for the position of Individual Consultant" on the top of the envelope and delivered to the address below by December 23, 2014 during office hours.

The Undersigned reserved to reject any application without assigning any reason whatsoever.

This Notice is also available in CPTU & CDA Websites.



(MD. MAHAFUZUR RAHMAN)
PROJECT DIRECTOR
CONSTRUCTION OF FLYOVER AT MURADPUR
2 NO GATE & GEC JUNCTION
CHITTAGONG DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
TELEPHONE: 88-031-632113

স্মারক নং-পিডি/মু:ফা:/নিয়োগ/৫৭২০/৪৪৮

তারিখ : ০২/১২/২০১৪

GD-1725/14 (15X4)



After 9 years Deputy Commissioner Fazle Rabbi inaugurated the tri annual meeting of AL in Raninagar upazila of Naogaon district on Monday. Photo : M R Rocky

The future of Bormochal School and College uncertain!

Shakir Ahmed, Kulaura(Moulvibazar) Correspondent :

The Bormochal School and College, established in 1950 is in the verge of falling apart due to the unprofessional involvement of the administration.

According to complaint's of the guardians of the enrolled students, the school has been avoiding any educational events or cultural programs as organizing it would be a hassle. This has been continuing since the Principal Fazlul Haq took the chair in 2000. Moreover, without consulting he administrators the principal agreed to post the PSC and JSC centers elsewhere. This has resulted in reprisal for both the students and the guardians in 2012.

On the other hand, the institution established in the middle of Bhatara, Brahmanbazar, Bhukshimail union had the opportunity of opening a

branch of Open University. But the chance to do so was also lost due to negligence. Even though the there are opportunities the students of the institution is not being able to take avail technical education due to the administrations.

Upon contacting elected guardian member (former) Abdul Munaf Sama Miah and Ziaul Karim Chowdhury Soheli they said, we were very much active against the ongoing oppression of the school, which is why the principal was quite upset on us.

On the other hand few months before the expiration of our committee the administrations along with the Upazila Excute Office Mohammad Shamsul Islam elected Joyonto Malakar as the assistant principal without paying any heed to the two third of the committee.

On this accord 6 of the 9 members of the directing committee filed a case on 19th March, which is ongoing.

Moreover, there hasn't been any meeting since the last on 22nd February. Since then, there has been several incidents leading to minor clashes between the teachers and the guardians.

Moreover, 2 JSC students Mahidul Islam and Hasna Begum were unable to sit for their JSC exams due to the unavailability of their statement of entry. The guardians of these students complained in this regards. When speaking to the professor in this matter he said, 'the students did not submit their forms within the allocated time, thus they did not get their admit cards.'

When asked about the matter of the recruitment he said, 'All the recruitments are been done under the proper rules and regulations.' He then said, 'I will work as hard as I can to maintain the heritage of the institution. I will not step away, if this disrupts somebody's personal interest.'

Captain Babul, an outstanding war hero

FARIDPUR : The day was December 17 in 1971, the second day of the Independent Bangladesh, which emerged with glory from a pool of fresh blood after the humiliating surrender of the heinous Pakistani force at the Suhrawardy Uddyan on the penultimate day, reports BSS.

A nation thus secured its place on the world map with a new flag under the leadership of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, a true spokesman for the oppressed millions and a great ambassador of democracy, who was still in a Pakistani jail on that day.

Narrating the experience of December 17, Noor Mohammad alias captain Babul, now in his eighties, said amidst cheers and applause of the crowds chanting slogans to celebrate their cherished victory after the nine-month bloody war, a dramatic scene took place at a big house 'Moez Monjil' in Faridpur town.

The Indian army personnel were staying in that house. The Brigade commander of the defeated army, who had retreated after the fall of Jessore cantonment, finally surrendered to the Indian army commander Brigadier Rajendra Nath. One Pakistani Brigadier Abrar according to military customs surrendered his unloaded revolver along with the rank badge to the Indian army commander, who was accompanying a tall and lanky unshaved Bangalee Freedom Fighter, uniformed in combat dress named Nur

Mohammad alias captain Babul.

"I shouted furiously at the surrendering Pakistani officer saying, Brigadier, earlier you were shy to surrender to the MuktiBahini. Why don't you now feel shy to surrender to the Indian Army? If you have any prestige, then you should have committed suicide before surrender. Brigadier Rajendra Nath cooled down Babul and asked him not to be excited," Babul told BSS.

In an exclusive interview at his residence here, Babul, who joined the Pakistan Navy as a Leading Seaman in 1953, said he was thinking about separation from the western wing of Pakistan from 1964 after being frustrated and humiliated by the discriminatory policy of the Pakistan government.

"I had to face humiliations, insult and deprivations from the non-Bengali colleagues as I was a Bangalee. At this stage I came in contact with the then Awami League leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who was fighting for the autonomy of erstwhile East Pakistan through his historic 6-point demand for the injustices in all sectors by the Pakistani rulers," he said.

Babul also said that he was in close contact with Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with other Bangalee Naval officials that led him to be involved with much talked Agartala Conspiracy Case.

He was finally landed in jail for his alleged involvement in the Agartala Conspiracy Case as the accused no. 5

along with Bangabandhu on charge of seceding East Pakistan through armed struggle. Bangabandhu was accused no.1.

However, the Pakistan government had to close the case at the trial stage due to the mass upsurge in 1969. Babul along with others got freed from the charges and was set free on February 22, 1969.

The historic speech Bangabandhu of March 7, 1971 at the then Race Course Maidan inspired me and it was a green signal for me and others to join an all-out war against the Pakistani army, he said.

Babul first went to Agartala and after taking necessary training returned home, when the Freedom Fighters and the common people were fighting pitched battles with the Pakistani army in different parts of greater Faridpur.

In July during the War of Liberation, he joined the comprehensive war in sector 9 under Major Jalil, who gave him the responsibility of a sub-sector commander in greater Faridpur district.

In August, he set up his sub-sector command headquarter at Orakandi of Kashiani police station now under Gopalganj district with more than a thousand Freedom Fighters. At that time, Dr. SA Malek was made the civil administrator of the liberated area of Faridpur.

"I led three big offensives on a strong Pakistani base at Bhatiapara killing at least 19 Pakistani soldiers," Babul said.



Four youths of Shaghata upazila under Gaibandha district caught attention for building a 170 feet long bamboo bridge willingly in Kholahat union of Sadar upazila. Photo : Jobaer Ali

BADC sells 4,813 tonnes seeds in Jamalpur, Sherpur

JAMALPUR : Seeds marketing, a wing of Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC), has sold 4,813 tonnes of various kinds of seeds among the farmers in Jamalpur and Sherpur districts this current season, reports BSS.

According to Seeds Marketing office, in the current robi season 5367.5 tonnes seeds were allotted in the two districts. Of the total 3,272 tonnes boro seeds, 1,261 tonnes wheat seeds, 765 tonnes potato seeds, 19 tonnes pulse seeds, 47 tonnes mustard seeds and 3.5 tonnes vegetables seeds.

Against the allotment the office sold 2,901 tonnes boro, 1,100 tonnes wheat, 765 tonnes potato, 15 tonnes pulse, 29 tonnes mustard and 2.7 tonnes vegetable seeds.

The seeds are being sold among the farmers through the registered dealers of BADC. A total of 386 dealers of whom 228 in Jamalpur and 158 dealers in Sherpur district got registration of BADC.

Deputy Director of Seeds Marketing Subrata Kumar Karmaker said farmers prone to cultivate their lands with the BADC seeds having its standard quality and good germination.

Passing out parade of navy held in Khulna

KHULNA : The passing out parade marking the induction of B/2014 batch of new sailors of the Bangladesh Navy was held in Khulna yesterday, reports BSS.

Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral M Farid Habib attended the ceremony as the chief guest at BNS Titumir parade ground in Khulna.

He congratulated the 577 newly inducted sailors for choosing a profession related to national security and prosperity.

He called upon them to build up their competency through implementing the knowledge that they acquired from the naval academy in their work.

Paying glowing tributes to the sacrifices of the freedom fighters, the navy chief urged the sailors to go ahead with determination to defend the independence and sovereignty of the country at any cost.

The Navy chief said, navy is patrolling relentlessly at the coastal belt across the country to protect the country's sovereignty and wealth from the robbers and foreign enemies.

A master plan has been taken for building a modern information technology based navy, he said adding that navy has already added international standard warship, helicopter and patrol plane to the naval fleet.

Barguna liberation day today

BARGUNA : Today is a memorable day in the history of Barguna district, reports BSS.

Barguna was liberated from the Pakistani occupation forces on December 3 in 1971.

The people of the district, the then sub-division, started taking preparations for the Liberation War following the historic 7th March speech of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

After joining the war, the freedom fighters of the district occupied the nearby Patuakhali district defying weak resistance of Pakistan army. They left Barguna, as the Pakistani forces were carrying out huge destructive activities there.

Violation of anti-tobacco law rampant in Joypurhat

Mashrekul Islam, Joypurhat Correspondent :

Tobacco is considered to be the greatest single health hazard for mankind. It is the only legal consumer product that kills one-third to one-half of those who use it as intended by its manufacturers, with its victims dying 15 years prematurely on an average.

Violation of anti-tobacco law is rampant in Joypurhat in absence of effective government steps to enforce the law prohibiting smoking in public places and selling of cigarettes and other tobacco products to people below 18 years of age.

In a bid to protect non-smokers from the harms of passive smoking, the government in May 2013 introduced Smoking and Tobacco Products Usage (Control) Act 2013 banning smoking in public places. The law also made it mandatory for cigarette producers to put statutory warning on the packets to discourage smoking. As per the law, anyone flouting the provisions of the law

would be fined Tk 300. However, smoking in public places such as bus stands, hospitals, railway stations, schools, markets is commonplace. Sufferers, particularly the non-smokers said that police or any other law enforcement agencies were indifferent to violation of the law.

Display of attractive leaflets of cigarettes at sales points and tea stalls is one of the latest tactics of tobacco companies. Small-size colorful leaflets of leading cigarette companies were seen at tea stalls, point of sales and others shops are seen on every roads of Joypurhat. As per the amended tobacco control law, any person found carrying out promotional campaign on tobacco and tobacco products will face three months jail term or a fine (maximum) of Taka lakh or both punishments. In case of repeating the violation of the law, punishment will be doubled.

Experts believe that National Tobacco Control Cell had failed to control use of tobacco due lack of coordination between law enforcement agencies and the cell.

Extortion case filed against Akhaura thana SI

Zabed Rahim Bijan, Brahmanbaria Correspondent :

A case was filed against a sub-inspector and a constable of Akhaura thana for demanding extortion of Tk 90 thousand on Monday.

The accused are: SI Md Delwar and constable Nazmul.

Victim Rashed Miah filed the case at the Akaura Senior Judicial Magistrate Court.

The plaintiff Rashed Miah in the complaint stated that, on 25th November noon he along with four other people went for to a party. While returning from the party at the evening they were stopped by a

group of police at College gate of Akhaura, and without asking anything they arrested them One of the arrestee Dulal Miah informed his relative and when his relative arrived and asked for the reason behind the arrest the police demanded 90 thousand taka for their release or else case would be filed against them with charges with drugs. In fear instantly they agreed to give the money and at the spot they could arrange only 28 thousand and 500 taka. The police then took 3 mobile sets worth 17 thousand taka and said to take their set back in return of the remaining money.

After that the victims complained against them to the OC of Akhaura Thana.



Farmer's taking their cultivated vegetables to sell at the market in Kishoreganj on Monday. Photo : Banglar Chokh

United efforts for ensuring universal children rights stressed

RANGPUR : Speakers at a views-sharing meeting have stressed for united efforts of all concerned with their esteemed and effective roles in achieving the set goals of establishing children rights, reports BSS.

The National Children Task Force (NCTF), district administration and Shishu Academy organised the meeting at conference room of the Deputy Commissioner in Panchagarh town to observe the 25th inception anniversary of Child Rights Charter of United Nations on Tuesday.

A large number of children, guardians, teachers, government and non-government officials, civil society members, public representatives, members of different professional organisations, socio-cultural and human rights activists and elite were present.

Deputy Commissioner of Panchagarh Mohammad Salah Uddin addressed the meeting as the chief guest with General Secretary of NCTF Mahmud Hassan in the chair. Additional Deputy Commissioner (Gen) of Panchagarh Ahmed Kabir, Civil Surgeon Dr Ahad Ali and Superintendent of Police Abul Kalam Azad addressed the meeting as the special guests.

District Volunteer of NCTF Ayesha Siddika moderated the meeting followed by cake-cutting ceremony to observe the occasion.

In their speeches, the speakers discussed the achievements in the fields of children rights since inception of the Children Rights Charter of the United Nations and the ways for overcoming the challenges being faced still today.

Taking part in the discussion, the participating children presented their views and opinions to face the challenges for attaining the goals of the Children Rights Charter to ensure the universal children rights.

They called for stopping child marriage, repression on children and torturing them in educational institutions, preventing child labour and drug abuse, ensuring equal rights for every child to education, healthcare and normal growth in congenial atmosphere.

The speakers delivered a series of suggestions identifying responsibilities of different organisations and their esteemed roles in achieving the goals of establishing universal child rights everywhere for every child in the society, country and the globe as a whole.

Government of The Peoples Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department

Office of the Executive Engineer

District-Rangpur.

Memo No. LGED/XEN/Rangpur/2014/3508

Date : 02-12-2014

Corrigendum Notice

This is to notify for all Concerned that the tender invited vide Memo No. LGED/XEN/Rangpur/2014/3499, Date : 01-12-2014 is Tender Notice No. 04/2014-2015 instead of 04/2013-2014 due to unavoidable circumstances.

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Handloom sector needs supports

It is regrettable that a sector which has a major role in the lives of mass people in the country - the handloom sector - is a relatively neglected one. The figures suggest that the total demand for fabrics in the country is about 1676 million metres. Out of this demand, 63 per cent or 800 million metres are produced by the local handloom operators who make clothes used by common people in their every day life such as saris, lungis, gamchas, etc. Handloom industry is found to be next only to agriculture in creating employment in the rural areas. More than 10 million people are linked directly or indirectly with it.

This sector can be quickly uplifted in every sense to create jobs at the grassroots level where the same are badly needed. Besides, the handloom products can be a source of substantial foreign currency earnings. There is considerable scope for greater utilisation of the fabrics produced by the handloom sector in the export oriented ready-made garments (RMG) industries. Therefore, fabrics from the handlooms are helping vital value-addition in the RMG industries and this process can accelerate with more assistance channeled to the handloom operators. Fabrics known as Grameen Check, Dhaka Check and Aarong Check are already being produced by the handloom sector and used in the RMG industries. There used to be import dependence for such fabrics in the past. Skull caps, lungis, gamchas, bedsheets, bedcovers, etc., produced by the handloom sector are being exported directly to some Middle Eastern and South East Asian countries. The handloom sector has a great deal of potential for further value addition in the RMG sector, for further meeting local needs of fabrics and expanding sales of its products directly in foreign countries. But at the moment, this is a relatively less assisted sector and a media report sometime ago stated that 37.6 per cent of the handlooms are not operational.

This stagnation in the handlooms sector calls for more focused attention to its problems by the government in view of its all round prospects. Apart from its possibilities in greater foreign currency earnings, it can be a source of expanding employment in rural areas where unemployment is a big problem. Handloom workers are generally poor and this sector's vitality can lead to improvement in the earnings of workers on a large scale --who are at the fringes of social existence -- by alleviating their poverty. Rural women are hard pressed to find suitable and gainful employment. The expanding handloom sector can be a source of such employment for them.

The main problem of the handloom sector is one of credit. Institutional credits can hardly be accessed by most of them. Whatever credits currently trickle down to section of the handloom industry are considered to be not so useful for the weavers who are required to service their debts regularly with high interests rates under a monthly payment system. Clearly, the interest rate needs to be scaled down adequately and the mode of repayment should be also made flexible together with substantial increases in the total amount of credits to be disbursed among a much bigger number of borrowers to make a positive impact. The black marketing of imported fabrics of the RMG sector in the local market and the smuggling in of Indian handloom products also create undue competition for the local handloom sector. Policies and actions from the government are required to deal effectively with these problems.

Putin and Erdogan: Partnership of convenience?

Dimitar Bechev

Hard-nosed pragmatism continues to govern relations between Russia and Turkey. Judging by the scenes of protesting Crimean Tatars in Ankara and Istanbul, Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit did not elicit warm feelings among many Turks. Yet, he is always a welcome guest for the Turkish state.

A day after Pope Francis visited, the Kremlin's uncrowned emperor rolled into Turkey's capital with as many as 10 of his government ministers, to make two key announcements: First, that the South Stream pipeline, projected to carry natural gas to the EU under the Black Sea, has been abandoned; second, Turkey remains a partner of choice for Russia. The fate of the multibillion dollar project had been up in the air for a few months. Breaching EU competition rules, the pipeline project could have gone through if it had allowed access to suppliers other than Gazprom. The crisis in Ukraine and the mounting tensions gave EU policymakers an additional reason not to accommodate Russia's demands for special treatment.

As a result, Putin declared that resources will be directed towards upgrading gas pipeline infrastructure linking Russia to Turkey - or even building an altogether new pipeline, in an attempt to save face and offset the losses incurred over South Stream.

Energy interests

This decision underscores the pragmatism in the way Moscow and Ankara deal with each other. Meetings and official phone conversations between Putin and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, more than 35 over the past few years, usually follow a very similar script. The two leaders agree to disagree on the ongoing human tragedy in Syria, where they sit on opposing sides, and proceed with bilateral business.

This time around, they made the usual pledge to triple the volume of trade between the two countries from the current figure of \$33bn to \$100bn by the end of this decade. That might be an ambitious target but one should not forget that Russia is already Turkey's second largest trading partner after Germany. It is, furthermore, the second biggest market for Russian gas exports outside the former Soviet Union, with Germany again the frontrunner.

Turkish construction firms have carved out a niche in the Russian market, benefiting handsomely from large public-funded project such as the Sochi Winter Olympics. This explains why Erdogan was deaf to calls for Turks of Circassian origin to boycott the games, which were set in the part of the Caucasus they were uprooted from back in the 1860s. But even in business things are not as smooth as they seem. Both Moscow and Ankara came to the table with their respective shopping lists to drive a hard bargain. What Turkey got out of the meeting was a six percent discount on gas traded between Gazprom and its gas oligopolist BOTAS as of January 1, 2015.

Currently, there is a problem with gas deliveries over the Trans-Balkan pipeline to western Turkey via Ukraine, Moldova, Romania and Bulgaria, because of disruptions due to the constant wrangling between Gazprom and Ukraine's Naftohaz. If the winter is harsh, heating in Istanbul and other large cities in the Marmara region will suffer. That is not a welcome prospect for the Turkish government, which is heading for general elections in the first half of 2015 and is therefore determined to avoid such unpleasant shocks and also keep gas prices low.

Source: Al-Jazeera

Asean could be the role model for Saarc

SYED MUNIR KHASRU

The 2014 Saarc Summit, which started with high expectations, ended low on delivery. The rivalry between India and Pakistan continues to frustrate efforts to integrate South Asia. Prime Minister Narendra Modi remarked in his opening speech that "Himalaya today is calling us to act. Let us work to change cynicism into optimism."

His Pakistan counterpart, Nawaz Sharif, stated: "We should build on convergences and minimise divergences." In reality, when even a gesture as small as Modi shaking hands with Sharif becomes news, it exposes the kind of congeniality prevailing in Saarc. The face-saving energy cooperation deal, so essential for the electricity-starved region, came about only after behind-the-scenes jockeying to get Pakistan on board as the summit ended with little tangible progress.

The unfortunate reality is that, with abundant natural resources and more than 1.5 billion people, Saarc has the potential to become the world's largest economy after the United States and China and is perceived as the next largest consumer market buoyed by steady economic growth and a booming

middle class. For example, India's middle class is expected to reach 550 million by 2025-26, more than the combined forecasted population of Britain, Germany, France, Italy and Spain of 330 million. Yet, Saarc is failing to harvest the benefit with intra-Saarc trade of only 5%, compared to Asean's 32%, the EU's 50% and NAFTA's 65%.

While Saarc is high on rhetoric and low on performance, Asean has the momentum by becoming the centre of two emerging mega regional trade blocs - Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), championed by China, and Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), promoted by the US. The fact that India is the only Saarc country to be part of the RCEP and not the TPP, signifies how unimportant Saarc has become compared to Asean as far as global trade and investment are concerned.

Asean is a good example for Saarc, particularly for India and Pakistan, to realise the value of cooperation and benefits resulting from a larger common market despite diversity in politics and religion. In 1975, Asean

nations signed the treaty of amity and cooperation, adopting the principles of renunciation of threat or use of force and settlement of disputes by peaceful means. The shared conviction of creating an economically win-win situation mobilised the nations in forming an interdependent regional economy.

The Asean Regional Forum was created in 1994 to foster dialogue, promote confidence-building, and adopt preventive diplomacy. A similar forum for Saarc will not only create room for deliberations but also bolster the fragile diplomatic relations.

To pave the way for Saarc's integration India-Pakistan rivalry has to stop and this calls for bold leadership. Given that India occupies 70% of the Saarc region, both geographically and economically, India has the onus to bring Saarc nations together, as stated by Modi: "I know India has to lead, and we will do our part." Whether he walks the talk remains to be seen.

For Saarc to progress, it must first capitalise on less contentious issues. Short-term success will create the

momentum to work on long-term goals of regional connectivity, resource sharing, and investment. A good start can be adopting a 'South Asia First' policy, making Saarc countries import products first from within the region. For example, major garment-manufacturing countries like Bangladesh and Sri Lanka import more than 80% of raw materials from outside Saarc, even though India and Pakistan are net exporters in this sector.

Leaders will need Himalayan heights of vision and courage to make Saarc a success. Whether Modi and his South Asian colleagues will rise to the occasion to unleash a new era of regional cooperation or Saarc will continue to languish in the abyss of historical mistrust and myopic economic vision is something the 1.5 billion people of South Asia will have to wait and see, even 30 years after Saarc's existence.

The author is chairman, Institute for Policy, Advocacy, and Governance, Bangladesh. Source: the Hindustan Times

Imran Khan's Plan C

ASHRAF JEHangir Qazi

There were many questions asked before Imran Khan's Nov 30 dharna in Islamabad. How many would show up after 108 days with no apparent progress? Would there be violence? What new ideas would Imran have to offer? Was this his last throw of the dice? Or would he be able to inaugurate a new phase of the struggle to bring about a 'New Pakistan'?

A large number of workers, supporters and spectators did show up. There was no violence. The mood remained enthusiastic. As for new ideas Imran reiterated his well-known demand for a judicial commission plus a joint investigation team to assist it in an electoral audit of four specified constituencies. To this he added his decision to shut down three major cities for a day on Dec 4, 8, and 12 respectively, and shutting down the whole country for a day on Dec 16 unless the government accepted his demands.

Does this confirm a roll of the dice in Last Chance Saloon? Or is it a clever upping of the ante against a government that has resumed its smug complacency after its nerves were severely tested over several weeks of a double dharna in the capital? In the likely event of the government's refusal to entertain Imran's demands and its determination to thwart any attempt to close down major cities, will Imran be able to implement his Plan C? And, of course, what could he have in mind while threatening a Plan D?

Closing down Karachi - even for a day - would require an

understanding with the MQM. Closing down Lahore and Faisalabad would be a direct challenge to the Sharif brothers. The whole country would be curtains for them. It would have to involve an understanding with GHQ as the prime minister constitutionally retains the option of calling out the army to break any strike that could negatively impact on national security and the economy. Significantly, the umpire's finger remained 'masterly inactive' during the first phase of the 'occupation' of Islamabad.

Accordingly, Plan C raises the question whether GHQ has changed its mind. The MQM may also not wish to risk its fragile understanding with the military by facilitating Imran in his more radical course of confrontation. Or has Imran decided to appeal directly to the urban masses over the heads of any and every centre of power? If so, he will be moving into virgin political territory.

There are many commentators and observers who incline to the view that a frustrated Imran has lost his marbles and is finally showing what an adolescent he really is. They will expect many of his more 'mature and seasoned' party colleagues to sooner or later review their decision to tie their political fortunes to such an unstable and populist demagogue. Some might recall Faiz Sahib's critical comments on Josh's poetic concept of the romantic hero who embodies a revolution in himself, in contrast to a genuine revolutionary who devotes his whole self to the service of the people as a purpose far greater than himself.

Stringent criticisms of Imran are commonly found among the safedposh ie the elites, apparatchiks and other social and political status quo stakeholders. They are also tellingly to be found among liberal and progressive civil society activists whom he needs to cultivate. But among the poorer youth, the unhappy, the weak, and other victims of the system there is such a profound and visceral aversion towards the 'rentier' and free-loading ruling classes that Imran, with all his shortcomings, can do no wrong in their eyes even when they know he is not always right. They see him as their last chance.

The comfortable classes may want an end to the 'tamasha' of dharnas, rallies, declamations, accusations, boorish language, jarring slogans, roadblocks, dislocations, loss of commerce and now, the threat of a series of large-scale city shutdowns that could shake their cosy and corrupt world. But there is also a rapidly growing underclass of people who are beginning to understand they do not have to remain losers for ever. Imran has made them aware of the prospect and promise of an order in which they can find inclusion and influence.

They see a stubborn and self-centred Imran as the only leader who has identified himself with their welfare and is unrelenting in his determination to make a real difference for the better in their lives. The risk that he may not live up to their expectations does not deter them. When Imran repeats 'ad nauseum' that the only asset of the people is their vote, their only

enemies are corrupt leaders who destroy the value of their vote, and their only prospect is to sink in a swamp of corruption and cynicism unless they stand up for their rights, he strikes a chord with them that no other political leader comes close to doing.

So even when Imran appears quixotic, self-willed, irrational, and at times arrogant and uneducated, it is his disinterested commitment to the people combined with his renowned will to prevail over all odds that sustains them in the hopes they invest in him. One might argue these beautiful illusions will come crashing down upon his followers and, sooner or later, they will have to come to terms with the reality that he offers them nothing.

But the reality they confront is that the available alternatives to Imran - civilian and military - have all been tested and found utterly wanting. Moreover, the current and former political leadership have made it clear they have absolutely no interest in doing anything for the people except to deceive in their name. The middle-class intelligentsia may mock Imran as dim, a dunderhead and given to diatribes, but for a developing majority who never enter the reckoning of chic political pundits, Imran is a knight in shining armour who is driven to fulfil their hopes. Plan C, for them, is a step in the right direction. Pakistan remains at a crossroads.

The writer is a former ambassador to the US, India and China and head of UN missions in Iraq and Sudan. Source: Dawn

Treatment of AIDS will require targeting the regions and populations most affected

MICHAEL GERSON

My college roommate - the most immediately likable person I've ever met, a man who would now be such a present to the world - died of AIDS at the age of 30. Back then, people with the disease did not so much die as fade, becoming gaunt and ghostly images of themselves, as the virus gradually destroyed enough T-cells to cut their ties with the flesh. Metaphors don't really capture the horror. Declined? Withered? At any rate, he died.

That was 20 World AIDS Days ago, shortly before the arrival of miracle drugs that could have saved my friend's life. Several years later, when I was on the White House staff, the existence of those medicines created a moral predicament. While antiretroviral drugs were broadly available in the developed world, they were rarely distributed elsewhere. Of about 30 million people with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa, perhaps 50,000 were in treatment. The pandemic had already produced millions of orphans. Walking through South African shantytowns, I mainly met grandmothers and their grandchildren. The intervening generation was nearly erased. In the most affected countries, life expectancy had fallen by 20 years.

President George W. Bush refused to live with this, urging the creation of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, proposing a \$15 billion emergency package of treatment, prevention and compassionate care (PEPFAR). A bipartisan congressional coalition supported this effort, which has been sustained across two administrations by the influence of tireless advocates inside and outside of government.

The global fight against AIDS was characterized, at first, mainly by breadth. After Bush's announcement of PEPFAR in the 2003 State of the Union address, hospital tents were erected in some places to get as many people on treatment as quickly as possible. Over time, PEPFAR and the Global Fund strengthened an infrastructure of laboratories, supply chains, human resources and infection control programs. Nearly 7 million people are now receiving AIDS drugs with the help of PEPFAR. Life expectancies in Africa have dramatically rebounded. Last year, for the first time, more people began AIDS treatment than were infected by the virus. A milestone. But the next stage of the AIDS response will tie ambition to precision. We are accustomed to the

data revolution as the cause of civil libertarian concern and the source of annoyingly targeted advertising. But epidemiologists are following improved data to the specific sites where disease is spread.

"Whether Ebola, HIV or malaria, infectious-disease epidemics are controlled by focusing where new infections are occurring," Mark Dybul, executive director of the Global Fund, told me. "For example, in Kenya, 53 percent of new adult and 73 percent of new child HIV infections are from five of 47 counties. Rates are highest among fisher folk, young women who trade sex with them and MSM [men who have sex with men]. If we focus on high-level endemic locations and populations, we can bend the curve rapidly and move to bring the HIV epidemic under control."

Disease experts now have a set of proven HIV prevention methods: early treatment, male circumcision, condoms and the prevention of mother-to-child transmission. They have increasingly specific data on the geographic regions where infections are concentrated. They have a good idea of the highest-risk and hardest-to-reach groups: MSM, transgender people, people who inject drugs, children (who get treatment at lower

rates) and young women. (Gender-based violence remains a major problem. In Swaziland, 43.5 percent of females 18 to 24 report having had unwilling first sexual intercourse before age 18.)

All of this data allow scientists essentially to shrink the epidemic map. We already knew that 30 countries have 89 percent of new HIV infections. Now we know that 22 percent of HIV testing and counseling centers in Tanzania report 88 percent of total positives. Resources can be employed where they will make the most difference. And these gains could be decisive when paired with an even partially effective vaccine (which is now a realistic prospect).

As usual, politics can get in the way. The kind of politics that wants to distribute resources equally by region to keep the locals happy. The kind of politics that targets groups for stigma and discrimination, particularly men who have sex with men and are too frightened to seek health services.

What is needed: compassion, increased resources and data that shape policy. And a memory of the lost - whose number still grows by nearly 30,000 each week.

Source: the Washington Post



Woman strive in field



BRAC launches foreign language school in Rangpur

RANGPUR : BRAC under its Migration Programme launched a foreign language learning school for the overseas jobseekers in village Purbo Najirdigar on the outskirts of the city here on 13 November afternoon, reports BSS

The overseas jobseekers would be able to learn Arabic and English languages in the school established with the initiative of Purbo Najirdigar Jubo Forum to assist them in getting better jobs and working well after going abroad, a press release said this evening.

Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer Priyosindhu Talukder formally inaugurated academic activities in the newly established school at a colourful ceremony arranged there as the chief guest with district representative of BRAC Abu Sayeed in the chair.

Assistant Director of District Employment and Manpower Office

Amena Parveen and Councilor of Ward No-31 of Rangpur City Corporation Mohammad Akhteruzzaman Bhutto attended the ceremony as the special guests.

Field Coordinator of BRAC Migration Programme Anwar Hossain moderated the ceremony with the assistance of its Communication Workers Surya Kumar Roy. The speakers said the overseas jobseekers face many problems, including getting lower salary, after going aboard without knowing language of that country and they utterly need to learn the concerned foreign language before going for employment abroad.

In his speech, the chief guest highly appreciated the BRAC initiative and said the school would help the overseas jobseekers learn Arabic and English languages there to enhance their language skills in easily getting job and better salaries aboard.

EU implements Tk 40cr project to improve food security, nutrition

DHAKA : The European Union (EU) has implemented a 3.6 million euros (approx Tk 40 crore) project to contribute to one of the EU's key cooperation priorities in Bangladesh to improve food security and nutrition, reports UNB.

EU Ambassador Pierre Mayaudon on Tuesday addressed delegates at the closing workshop for the 'Agriculture and Nutrition Extension Project' (ANEP) at the city's Lakeshore Hotel.

"ANEP which is closing now is a success story. I could witness during a field visit to Barisal that the project has a direct impact on the betterment of the local communities. I salute the commitment and professionalism of all those who have contributed to this achievement," he said. To implement the project in Bangladesh, iDE, as lead agency, joined hands with seven other partners - CIMMYT, WorldFish, IRRI, Save the Children, CEAPRED, BES Nepal and CODEC.

The project was implemented in a consortium approach, with staff members seconded from implementing organisations into a project management structure designed to maximise efficiency in delivery. The project activities have successfully reached over 40,000 farmer households in Bangladesh with new and emerging agricultural technologies, and increased the nutritional status of 10,000 households directly through nutrition education.

The project had a regional dimension as similar activities were also implemented in Nepal and, both Bangladesh and Nepal, benefitted from exchange visits, sharing of experience and successful technologies. The workshop discussed key findings and lessons learned from the ANEP Bangladesh final evaluation. The event was hosted by senior members of the iDE and ANEP leadership team including Deepak Khadka, Country Director of iDE Bangladesh;

Richard Rose, Project Coordinator of ANEP Bangladesh and Dr Luke Colavito, ANEP project leader at iDE Nepal. It featured a multi-disciplinary panel discussion on technology commercialisation and food security which comprised of Michael Foley, Director of Health and Nutrition at Save the Children; Marie Cadrin, Chief of Party at ACIDI-VOCA; Arman Khan, Food Security Advisor at the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Bangladesh; Ahsan Khan Chowdhury, Deputy Managing Director of RFL-PRAN Ltd and Dr Md Abdul Aziz, Chief Scientific Officer and Head of Agronomy Division at Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI).

High official team of Netherlands Embassy visits SaFaL activities

A high official team of the kingdom of the Netherlands Embassy visited some interventions of SaFaL Programme at Narail and Jessore on Wednesday 26 November'14. First they interacted with group farmer of Tularampur golda Utpadonkari dal at Tularampur union under Narail district. Farmers were given warm reception to the visitor team. During visit period, some questions raised by visit team like what the farmers benefit from SaFaL, Why they involve with SaFaL who engaged with WMG before, what are the difference between SaFaL and WMG intervention, how they use their profit with WMG etc and Farmers given satisfactory answer of above mention questions. After that, visitor team visited "SaFaL Sales and Buy center" at Mulia Narail. The visiting team highly appreciated to see the sales chain therefore they visited processing

center of MU Sea Food at Jhumhumpur, Jessore. Umans Laurent, First Secretary, Food Security, EKN, Carel de Groot, First Secretary, Water Sector, EKN, A.T.M. Khaleduzzaman, Sr. Advisor, IWRM, EKN Presented in the visit team. Mr. Hasan Aref, Director, Md. Touhidul Islam, Project Director, SaFaL, Md. Rabiul Islam, MIS & Documentation Officer, SaFaL from Jagorani Chakra Foudnation, Indu Bhushan Roy, Project Coordinator, SaFaL, Sattya Narayan Roy, APC, SaFaL, Tafiqul Islam, Aquaculture Specialist, SaFaL from Solidaridad Network Asia also presented during visit. Jagorani Chakra Foundation Implementing Sustainable Agriculture, Food Security and Linkages (SaFaL) Programme in Jessore and Narail District through partnership with Solidaridad Network Asia financed by Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands.



Enhanced GO-NGO cooperation stressed for disaster management

RAJSHAHI : Stakeholders yesterday stressed enhanced cooperation between the government agencies and non-government organisations to reduce disaster risks as they joined a knowledge-sharing meeting here, reports BSS.

The Divisional Commissioner's Office and Trinamool, a non-government organization, jointly organized the meeting in association with Concern Universal- Bangladesh, Cordaid and Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction Forum.

The participants said a more proactive and comprehensive approach was needed for successful disaster management which also requires strengthened community capacity.

The meeting styled "Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation" drew stakeholders from four disaster-prone northwestern districts of Rajshahi, Bogra, Chapainawabgonj and Sirajgonj at the commissioner's office.

With Divisional Commissioner Helaluddin Ahmed in the chair, additional commissioner Munir Hossain and Deputy Commissioner Mejbah Uddin Chowdhury spoke on the occasion as guests of honour.

More than 25 officials including upazila nirbahi officers and district relief and rehabilitation officers from the four disaster-prone districts shared their experiences and views with the stakeholders.

During his welcome address, Jalal Uddin, Director of Trinamool, gave an overview of the meeting alongside various aspects of concerted efforts towards successful disaster management.

Ahmed explained the efforts taken by the present government for disaster management alongside risk reduction and added that while there is no means of preventing occurrence of natural catastrophes, opportunities are there to reduce the damage and casualties.

13 cyclone shelters being constructed in Koyra

30,000 can take refuge



KHULNA : Construction works of thirteen school-cum-cyclone shelters in coastal Koyra upazila of the district are progressing fast with a February-deadline, reports BSS.

Sources at the Upazila Engineer's Office said construction works of the shelter centres involving over

Tk30 crore are expected to be finished by February, 2015.

The cyclone shelters in the Sundarbans can provide shelter to nearly 30,000 people of Koyra sadar and Maheshwaripur union at the time of any natural disaster like cyclone or tidal surge.

Two contractor firms-- 'Khaleque

Enterprise' and 'Dhali Construction' -- are constructing the school-cum-cyclone shelters under a project taken up by the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED).

Tidal surge during cyclones 'Sidr' on November 15 in 2007 and 'Aila' on May 25 in 2009 wrecked

colossal havoc in the coastal region Sundarbans.

Giving utmost importance to the safety of people's lives and properties during natural disaster, the government took an initiative to build two-to-three storey school-cum-cyclone shelters in the region.

Under the circumstances, the government appealed to the World Bank and other donor agencies to extend financial assistance to build the cyclone shelters.

In response to the government's request, different high-profile teams of representatives from the World Bank visited the disaster-hit areas several times and afterwards, the government managed to construct some cyclone shelters.

During a recent visit, this correspondent found that almost 80 per cent works of the cyclone shelters in 3 ,4, 5 and 6 no. unions of Koyra and Kalikapur, Chowkuni, Middle Maheshwaripur, Bhagba and Hodda of Maheshwaripur have been completed.

Upazila Engineer KM Farukh Hossain expressed the hope that the construction works of the cyclone shelters would be finished within the next three months.

Once built, the school-cum-cyclone shelters will come greatly to the use of the coastal people, both in academic activities and shelter during natural calamities, the engineer added.



Free eye camp held in Narsingdi

A free eye camp was held on the Sharafat Ali Government Primary School premises of Monohordi upazila under Narsingdi district on Monday. Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM)'s ENRICH Health Care Project and Shukundi Union Parishad jointly organised the camp. Through the camp the specialist doctors tested the eyes of the poor people of the union. A total of 395 persons were examined in the camp, of whom 75 persons were detected for cataract surgery in Dhaka Lions Progressive Hospital. Monohordi Upazila Nirbahi Officer Mahmud Hasan inaugurated the camp. At the inaugural

ceremony, Chairman of Shukundi Union Parishad Abdul Gani Farazi, Head of DAM Microfinance Programme Asaduzzaman, District Coordinator of Sightsavers Golam Zakaria and freedom fighter Md. Nurul Haque spoke on the occasion. DAM functions since 1958 pursuing the founding aims of social and spiritual development of entire human community. DAM works to enhance people's capacities to maximally utilize their inner potentials in addressing living needs. Main purpose is improving living conditions of people particularly the disadvantaged.



In this photo, two clergy members attended a gathering in front of the headquarters of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, to show their support for Iran's nuclear program in Tehran, Reuters

FM Zarif says Iran no longer facing ‘drum of war’

TEHRAN: The world is no longer beating the "drum of war" against Iran, its foreign minister said on Tuesday, citing the direct benefit of the government's nuclear talks with the West, reports AFP/BSS.

Mohammad Javad Zarif said the decision to restart negotiations and seek a deal over the Islamic republic's disputed nuclear programme had reduced tension and would not be reversed.

But Zarif, who has led the Iranian side in talks with world powers that last month saw an interim agreement extended to June 30 next year, denied his team was bargaining "like carpet sellers" for a better deal. "Because of these negotiations the Islamic republic of Iran has become safer... and less vulnerable than before," he told students in Tehran in a speech carried live on state television. "No one can any longer beat the drum of war... the hostile atmosphere created against us has fallen through. The world has realised mutual understanding and common interests can lead to agreement."

Israel and the United States have said all options, including military measures, remain on the table should Iran not rein in its nuclear programme.

At the most recent negotiations, Iran and the P5+1 group (Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States plus Germany) missed a November 24 deadline for a comprehensive agreement. But they agreed to keep talking and set new deadlines of March 1 for a broad political framework and June 30 for the fine print of the final deal.

Key differences remain on when sanctions will be lifted on Iran and on what limits will be placed on its enrichment of uranium, a process used to produce energy but which can also lead to the fissile material needed for an atomic bomb. Iran denies seeking nuclear weapons.

Respect for Iran has increased since talks officially restarted in 2013, Zarif said, but the process has been hampered by "the Westerners having a wrong concept of how Iranian officials negotiate".

"They used to believe that Iranians

'taarof', kill time, bargain like carpet sellers and give concessions at the last minute," he said.

"Taarof" refers to the Iranian art of politeness, an ancient custom of manners which in some environments is perceived as a potentially deceptive black art. "This wrong conception of our behaviour has caused us not to be able to reach our objectives in negotiations," he added, with more time needed for coming to terms on "details".

President Hassan Rouhani, meanwhile, echoed Zarif's comments on the nuclear talks and said the real challenge was to improve Iran's economy after years of sanctions. "The future path of the country is the path of development, progress and hope," he said in Gorgan, a northern city where Wednesday he will inaugurate a railway tie-up with Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan.

"The world has accepted it's high time to put an end to unjust sanctions. Today the world needs Iran both for the security of the region and the world, as well as for global and regional economic prosperity."

China's carbon goal a tough sell in coal country

TANG COUNTY : The black slabs of coal came in by the truckload through this dusty valley in northern China, slated to power cement and steel plants, heat the houses of poor farmers and even grill skewers of lamb and beef, reports UNB.

Just a few dozen miles from the capital of Beijing, in Hebei province, coal use has long been a way of life here, with countless house-sized mounds of it dotting the forest floor. Yet the soot-covered residents of Tang County said they see change coming as Chinese leaders pledge to cut back on the kind of rampant coal use that has made this country the world's biggest emitter of greenhouse gases. Already, Beijing and other Chinese cities have been phasing out coal burning in an attempt to rein in clouds of toxic smog.

South Korea ship sinks in Bering Sea; over 50 missing

SEOUL: South Korean officials expressed fear Tuesday of a huge death toll after rescuers failed to find any of the more than 50 fishermen missing after their ship sank amid high waves in the freezing waters of the western Bering Sea on Monday, reports AP.

Authorities rescued seven crew members and recovered one body, but weather and water conditions complicated the search for the others, an official from the South Korean fisheries and oceans ministry said on condition of anonymity because of office rules.

The crew included 35 Indonesians, 13 Filipinos, 11 South Koreans and one Russian inspector, the official said. Russian authorities said there were 62 people aboard the ship, which sank in the western part of the Bering Sea, near Russia.

The South Korean ministry official said it's believed that the ship, which was catching pollock, began to list after stormy weather caused seawater to flood its storage areas. Kim Kang-ho from Sajo Industries, the canned tuna company that owns the ship, said the 2,000-ton vessel was 36 years old.

An official from South Korea's foreign ministry, who refused to be named citing office



rules, said Tuesday morning that the death toll was expected to rise because rescuers failed to find any of the missing passengers. Four fishing ships that were operating nearby continue to search for survivors, but harsh weather conditions have limited their mobility, the official said. South Korean Prime Minister Chung Hong-won vowed told a Cabinet meeting that the government will work with Russia to speed up the rescue efforts.

Historical Day

Bangla Academy Founded

Bangla Academy founded on 3 December 1955 at Burdwan House, Dhaka, was the outcome of the language movement of 1952, and, as such, a symbol of the movement and of Bengali nationalism. Since its inception, it has been playing a significant role in the development and modernisation of Bangla. The Bangla Academy came into being as a direct result of the Bengali Language movement of 1952, the movement that in more ways than one provided the motive power for Bangladesh's liberation struggle in 1971. Though 1952 is a milestone in the language movement, the struggle to give Bangla due recognition may be traced back to the second decade of the 20th century. At a meeting of the Vangiya Sahitya Parishad in 1925, chaired by Haraprasad Shastri, Dr Muhammad Shahidullah proposed the use of Bangla for academic and literary purposes. At the All-India Muslim Education Conference chaired by AK Fazlul Huq, he called upon the Government of Bengal to set up a translation department. On 31 December 1948, in his presidential address at the East Pakistan Literary Conference held in Dhaka, he proposed the establishment of a language academy. After the events of 21 February 1952 the demand for establishing a centre like Bangla Academy became stronger. On 29 April 1952 the Azad, a leading Bangla newspaper, in its editorial stressed the importance of setting up an academy for Bangla. The University of Dhaka took some initiatives to set up an academy, but the attempt fell through.

3 Hong Kong protest leaders to surrender to police

HONG KONG: Three of the founders of Hong Kong's protest movement called Tuesday for an end to street demonstrations to prevent further violence and to take the campaign for democratic reforms to a new stage, reports AP.

It wasn't clear whether student protesters, who make up the bulk of the activists, would heed the call. Professors Benny Tai Yiu-ting and Chan Kin-man and Pastor Chu Yiu-ming said they plan to surrender to police on Wednesday to take responsibility for protests that have shut down parts of the Asian financial center for more than two months. Instead of street protests, the three hope to continue the campaign through networking among civic groups, community organizing and education in democracy and human rights. The three are founders of the Occupy Central movement to force China's central government to scrap its requirement that candidates for the semiautonomous region's chief executive be approved by a panel chosen by Beijing.

Pakistani jets, ground forces kill 24 militants

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan army's jets and ground forces killed 24 militants as part of ongoing operations in the country's troubled tribal regions bordering Afghanistan, the military and a government official said Tuesday, reports AP. At least 30 suspected militants were killed on Tuesday during airstrikes conducted by military fighter jets in the Dat-takel area of North Waziristan tribal Agency.

Security sources said that 30 militants, including two key commanders and several foreign fighters, were killed in the blitz which was carried out in a jungle situated in Dat-takel. At least twelve militants were killed as security forces repulsed an attack on a check-post situated on the border with Tirah Valley in Orakzai Agency's Shirin Dara area.

Security sources said that scores of militants attacked a security checkpoint in Shirin Dara with heavy weapons but forces repulsed the offensive. Sources added that at least 12 militants were killed in the retaliatory action by security forces and many others injured. The death toll is likely to rise. The militants fled from the area leaving behind the bodies of their comrades. The details could not be independently verified as access of mediapersons is restricted in the region.

Khyber and North Waziristan are included in Pakistan's seven semi-autonomous regions governed by tribal laws and lies near

the Afghan border. The Taliban and other Al Qaeda-linked groups who stage attacks in both Pakistan and Afghanistan are also known to have strongholds in the zone.

Seventeen local and foreign "terrorists" were killed in airstrikes on Tuesday in the North Waziristan tribal region, where the military has been carrying out a major operation since June, a military statement said.

It provided no details and the identity of the slain militants was not known. The airstrikes were launched hours after more than 50 militants attacked a military checkpoint in the Khyber tribal region, triggering a shootout late Monday in which seven militants were killed, said Iqbal Khan, a government official. The assailants fled when the troops returned fire, he said, adding that security forces were searching the area to trace and arrest the attackers.

North Waziristan and Khyber tribal regions are closed to journalists and there is no way to independently confirm the information. The Pakistani army says it has killed about 1,200 militants since launching the operation in North Waziristan in mid-June. The push is aimed at eliminating those Pakistani and foreign militants accused of launching attacks in Pakistan and neighboring Afghanistan. The army says security forces are also carrying out an operation in Khyber to eliminate those who fled from the North Waziristan region.



A soldier fires his rocket propelled grenade towards militant positions on top of a house in the tribal areas near the Pak-Afghan border. Dawn

NSW calls for constitutional recognition of indigenous people

NEW SOUTH WALES : New South Wales has become the first state government to support a referendum to change the constitution to recognise indigenous Australians, reports AP.

NSW Premier Mike Baird said he would encourage other state and territory leaders to do the same.

The Australian government has said it would hold a referendum but has not set a date. Mr Baird said it would take some time "before we convince the entire country" to vote for the change. Prime Minister Tony Abbott, a long-term supporter of constitutional recognition of indigenous Australians, has been speaking to conservative groups who do not want the constitution changed.

Indigenous Australians are not mentioned in the constitution. In the past few years, there have been discussions about recognising

them in a preamble to the constitution, and about changing the main part of the constitution to include a section that outlaws racial discrimination.

Aboriginal Australians represent about 2.5% of Australia's 24 million people. Generations of discrimination and disadvantage have left them with poor health and low levels of education and employment.

Changing the constitution would require a majority of overall votes and a majority

of votes in a majority of Australia's six states. In 2010, the government formed an expert panel to examine constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The panel, which included Indigenous and community leaders, constitutional experts and parliamentary members, led a national public consultation and engagement program in 2011, and reported its findings to the prime minister in 2012.



Indigenous Australians represent about 2.5% of Australia's 24 million people. BBC

Spot Light News

India successfully tests N-capable Agni-IV missile

BHUBANESWAR: India on Tuesday successfully conducted the first user trial of its long-range, nuclear-capable, surface-to-surface Agni-IV missile from a defence base in Odisha, an official said. The missile, with the capability to hit targets 4,000 km away, was tested from the Wheeler Island off the state coast near Dhamra in Bhadrak district, about 200 km from the state capital Bhubaneswar.

Afghan official says insurgents kill 6 soldiers

An Afghan army officer says that six soldiers have been killed in the north-western province of Badghis after insurgents launched several attacks on guard posts, reports AP.

Gen. Douud Shah Wafa, the commander of the Afghan National Army in the province, says Taliban gunmen used machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades to attack the posts in Bala Murghab district early on Tuesday morning.

Muzaffarnagar riot victims stage dharna in Shahpur town

Several riot victims, including women, staged a dharna and raised slogans in Shahpur town over delay in the arrest of those accused in the Kut-ba killings in Muzaffarnagar during the communal clashes last year.

The victims alleged that the accused who were found involved are roaming free even after 13 months have passed. The accused will be arrested soon, SP (rural) Alok Priyadarshi said, adding attachment proceedings have been initiated. Following the assurance from the SP, victims called off their dharna.

Christians in India protest church fire

Hundreds of Christians are protesting in the Indian capital after a fire destroyed a church, reports UNB.

While the cause of the fire is not known, the Delhi Catholic Archdiocese said Tuesday that "mischief" was suspected. The blaze broke out in St. Sebastian's Church in a northeast suburb of New Delhi on Monday. A statement from the archdiocese says that forensic samples retrieved from the church smelled of fuel.

Indonesian tries Canadian teacher for child abuse

A Canadian teacher and an Indonesia teaching assistant have gone on trial accused of sexually abusing a kindergartner on the campus of a prestigious international school, reports AP.

Neil Bantleman and Ferdinand Tjong appeared before a judge Tuesday in separate closed door sessions to hear charges against them. Both men maintain their innocence as do fellow teachers and the principal at the Jakarta International School.

SC warns of action against PM, opposition leader if CEC not appointed by Dec 5

The Supreme Court said Tuesday that if a permanent Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) was not appointed by Dec 5, then the court would consider on Dec 8 the issuance of notices against Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Syed Khurshid Shah. A three-member bench of the apex court, headed by Chief Justice Nasirul Mulk, was hearing the case pertaining to the appointment of a permanent CEC.

NAIROBI : At least 36 quarry workers were killed early Tuesday in northern Kenya by suspected Islamic extremists from Somalia, said Kenyan police, reports UNB. The killings happened in Mandera County near the border with Somalia and the attackers escaped, said Kenyan police chief David Kimaiyo.



Entertainment Desk

Singer Arefin Rumey is finally free from the case filed against him by his first wife Lamiya Islam Anannya.

The case concluded by the singer divorcing his wife and making a FD worth of 20lakh for his son Aryan.

The singer along with his brother S M Yeasin Rony was arrested on 12th October, 2013,

based on the case filed against him in Mohammadpur Police station. He was sent to the jail on the same day after the court denied him bail. He was released the next day after agreeing to meet the 7 conditions.

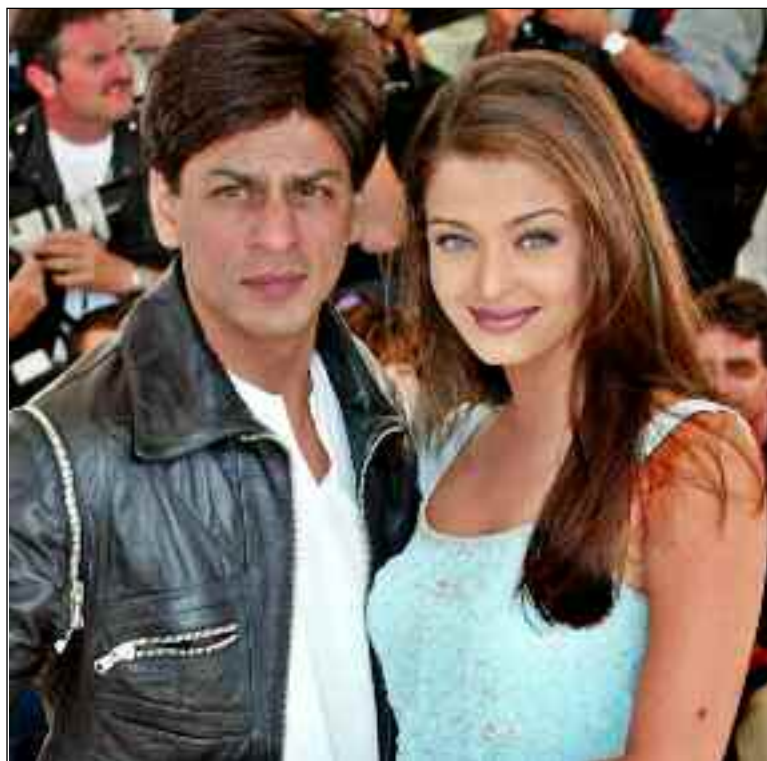
On the other hand, the court issued a charge sheet against Rumey on 10th August, excluding this mother Nasima Begum Rosy and brother Yeasin Rony.

The complaint in the case included, the

couple married in 2008 of 4th April and had a son Aryan. Later in 2012 the singer married American resident Kamrun Nesa. Soon after his second marriage the singer left for UK and denied to pay any amount for the livelihood of his first wife and son.

Recently on returning from UK the singer demanded a dowry of 20 lakh and started to torture his wife along with his mother and brother.

Rumey free from all charges



Aishwarya to romance Shah Rukh Khan in Chalti Ka Naam Gaadi remake

Entertainment Desk

Bollywood actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan has reportedly signed Rohit Shetty's remake of the 1958 hit Chalti Ka Naam Gaadi opposite Shah Rukh Khan - perhaps the filmmaker's most enviable casting coup so far.

SRK and Aishwarya, who were last seen together in in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 2002 film Devdas, will play a couple on-screen after 12 years. Devdas has been their only proper Bollywood romance so far. They played siblings in the 2000 film Josh and Aishwarya had a cameo role in Shah Rukh Khan's Mohabbatein, co-starring Amitabh Bachchan. She also appeared in the item number Ishq Kameena in SRK's film Shakti.

While SRK and Ash have been confirmed, there is no news of the other two male members pf the cast. Chalti Ka Naam Gaadi starred Ashok Kumar, Kishore Kumar and Anup Kumar in the lead roles while Madhubala played Kishore da's love interest. The grapevine suggests that Rohit Shetty was planning to rope in actors Arjun Kapoor and Varun Dhawan for the project but the director has denied this. Aishwarya Rai Bachchan's comeback film has been the subject of endless speculation for a long time now. And while Sanjay Gupta's Jazbaa could claim to be that film, it is this film with SRK that could put her squarely back on the Bollywood map yet again.



Srabonti welcomes new member in her family!

Entertainment Desk

Popular actress of a time, Srabonti has given birth to a daughter on 27th November in America. This is her second child. It has been reported that both the mother and the daughter are doing well.

After conceiving her second child, the actress set off for America in 19th June. She has been residing there since. Her husband, Khorshed Alam, general manager of NTV went to America a few fays back.

On the other hand, intending her husband Srabonti gave a status on facebook stating, ' Father of two daughters, Alhamdulillah. Congratulations Mohammad Khorshed Alam.'

But the name of the newborn is still unknown.

Comedian Deven Verma dies at 77

Entertainment Desk

Veteran Bollywood character actor, director and producer Deven Verma died here early Tuesday following a heart attack and kidney failure, family sources said. He was 77.

He is survived by his wife Rupa Ganguly, the younger daughter of the late legendary actor Ashok Kumar.

Deven Verma breathed his last around 2 a.m. at his home in Pune, the city of his birth from where he graduated in politics and sociology before joining the film industry.

He is best remembered for roles in movies such as Angoor, Chori Mera Kaam, Andaz Apna Apna, Bemisal, Judaai, Dil To Paagal Hai, and Kora Kagaz.

The funeral will be performed Tuesday afternoon at the Yerawada crematorium.



Scarlett Johansson reportedly married journalist in secret ceremony



Entertainment Desk

Scarlett Johansson has reportedly married French journalist Romain Dauriac in a secret ceremony just after the birth of their daughter, Rose. The actress, who was recently seen wearing a gold ring on her wedding finger, is yet to confirm the wedding.

The ceremony apparently happened in September just after the birth of Rose, reported the New York Post quoting sources. "Scarlett and Romain were married in a very intimate ceremony after the birth of their daughter. They kept the wedding a big secret because they both wanted privacy," the source said.

It was speculated that the wedding would take place in Paris but the source said the couple tied the knot at a secret location in the US.

Johansson, 30 started dating Dauriac in 2012. They got engaged in August.

The Avengers star was previously married to Canadian actor Ryan Reynolds, who is also expecting a child with his current wife Blake Lively.

Victoria Beckham wins best Best Brand at the 2014 British Fashion Awards

Entertainment Desk

Singer-turned-fashion designer Victoria Beckham and actress Emma Watson have been honoured for their excellent style sense at the 2014 British Fashion Awards.

Victoria, who was escorted to the event on Monday by husband David Beckham just two days after he was involved in a car crash, was presented with the Best Brand prize during a ceremony at Coliseum venue here, reports hollywood.com

"Wow, thank you. I am so, so proud to be British and incredibly proud to have built my brand in the UK. I want to thank my team. I love you all so much and this is for all of you," she said.

Brand winner Victoria Beckham poses in the winners room at the British Fashion Awards at London Coliseum.

'Harry Potter' star Watson was presented with the British Style Award by One Direction singer Harry Styles, who claimed the prize



last year.

Poppy Delevingne joined fellow models Karlie Kloss and Joan Smalls in handing little sister Cara Delevingne the Model of the Year prize, and US Vogue editor Anna Wintour was feted for her years of contributions to the

fashion industry with the Outstanding Achievement award.

Among the other attendees at the star-studded event were Rihanna, Rita Ora, Anna Kendrick, Lily Allen, Suki Waterhouse, Kylie Minogue, and Nicole Scherzinger.

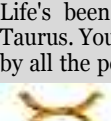
Horoscope

Aries (March 21 - April 19)



Don't be surprised to see your co-workers acting a bit silly today, Aries. There is no getting around the high spirits that permeate the office environment. It's almost impossible to get any work done with today's planetary atmosphere. Rather than cracking the whip and trying to increase productivity, why not join in? Lighten up a little.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20)



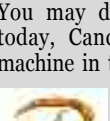
Life's been a real social whirl lately, Taurus. You may feel a bit overwhelmed by all the people and parties. It's fun to see everyone, but a bit daunting to renew ties with old friends and try to remember the names of new ones. Names and faces mingle to the point where you aren't sure of your own name, much less anyone else's. Take a deep breath, Taurus, you're doing just fine.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)



With all the social events you've attended lately, Gemini, it's likely that you've met some people in the healing professions. These doctors, nurses, and technicians could be useful to you later. Be sure to file their contact information away for future reference. On another front, expect to receive some good news concerning your finances.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22)



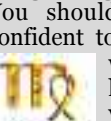
You may discover an untapped talent today, Cancer. Perhaps there's a new machine in the office and you're the only one who can figure out how to use it. Maybe drafting a simple business proposal makes you realize how much you enjoy the writing process. This is a good day for any kind of creative endeavor, as well as for paperwork of all sorts. Get everything done so you can enjoy the evening

Leo (July 23 - August 22)



Expect some positive developments today that impact the whole family, Leo. Perhaps you or your mate will receive word of a significant raise or great job opportunity. Perhaps you meet the one who is right for you, and you know it the instant you shake hands. Whichever it is, don't let the opportunity pass. If you don't seize it, someone else surely will.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22)



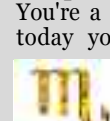
You should be feeling especially confident today, Virgo. You've been working especially hard lately, and the recognition you've received goes a long way toward reinforcing your feelings of self-worth. Your life goals suddenly seem more attainable and you'll pursue them with renewed vigor. Your confidence is grounded in reality. You will surely succeed.

Libra (September 23 - October 22)



This is a day made for fun and frivolity, Libra, not one in which you're likely to get many of your chores done. Try as you might to focus on the task at hand, there are distractions everywhere you turn. Your email pals could be sending you jokes and notes, and your friends could be bugging you to join them for an outing of some sort. You may as well give in.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21)



You're a person of many talents, and today you're likely to discover yet another one, Scorpio. The delivery of a new piece of equipment makes you feel like you've been given a toy for your sole enjoyment. But once you get the computer or piece of machinery up and running, you need to share it with your co-workers! They will be very impressed with your technical abilities.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21)



You Don't be surprised if people surround you today, each one anxious to confer with you. It seems that you're the authority on all topics, Sagittarius. All the attention is flattering, but it makes it difficult to get any work done. Do what you can to help your co-workers, and then tell them that the help desk is closed for the day. You want to leave work early so you can be with your loved ones

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19)



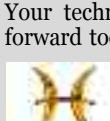
Don't let yourself be manipulated by needy friends, Capricorn. With today's planetary energies, it's a good time to think about setting clear boundaries. You know which friends are there for you and lift you up and which ones tend to drain all your time and energy with the constant need for your immediate attention. Try saying no. You can't fix other people's lives for them anyway. Think about it.

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18)



This is a good day for sharing friendship with pals and co-workers, Aquarius. People will be in a light, socializing mood and not much in a working frame of mind. There's really no use fighting this energy. Enjoy yourself today and allow yourself to detach from work issues. You can all get back to the grindstone later. The work will still be there.

Pisces (February 19 - March 20)



Your technical skills take a real leap forward today, Pisces. It seems all that training you've done is finally paying off. Your new skills will greatly increase your efficiency and enhance your marketability. If you've been thinking about applying for a new position, get your resume ready to send out when you see an appealing ad. Any move you make will be for the better.



Dhaka University VC AAMS Arefin Siddique along with university high officials on Tuesday addressed the prize giving ceremony at the central playground of the university. Photo: Anwar

FH hall wins DU inter hall football competition

Habibur Rahman Ovi

Fazlul Huq Muslim Hall touched the victory trophy in Dhaka university inter-hall football competition on Tuesday. FH hall won the final match by defeating Shaheed Sergeant Zahurul Haq Hall in the inter-hall football competition by 3-2 in tri-backer. Dhaka University VC AAMS Arefin Siddique along with university high officials addressed the prize giving

ceremony on Tuesday at the central playground of the university. Expressing satisfaction, Fazlul Huq Muslim Hall provost Harun-ur-Rashid said, "Yes we did". "The match was not only for wining a trophy only; it was an endeavor to reduce the monotonous motion of the students, especially from science faculty". Shaheed Sergeant Zahurul Haq Hall provost, also one the main organizer of the competition talked with TBT DU

unit correspondent. "We lost in tri tri-backer; we have no misery rather my actual vision was to bring all the hall representatives in one platform". DU Pro-VC (Administration), also the sports board president Prof Shahid Akhtar Hussain, Kabi Jasimuddin Hall provost Professor Rahmatullah, ZH hall president Rifat, Secretary Joy and a number of students of different departments were present in the function.

Ronaldo, Messi, Neuer up for Ballon d'Or

Sports Desk

The goalkeeper who won the World Cup will be challenging Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi for the Ballon d'Or, reports AP. While the footballer of the year prize has switched between the world's top scorers since 2008, Manuel Neuer of Germany is the first goalkeeper to make the Ballon d'Or top three since 2006. Ronaldo won the 2013 honor, ending Argentina forward Messi's three-year run as the world's best player since FIFA and France Football magazine merged their awards.

In the women's category, five-time winner Marta of Brazil was nominated on Monday alongside 2012 winner Abby Wambach and Germany midfielder Nadine Kessler, who is seeking the honor for the first time. The winners, chosen by national team captains and coaches, plus selected journalists, will be announced in Zurich on Jan. 12. Messi has broken the Champions League and Spanish league scoring records this month after winning the Golden Ball at the World Cup, but he will end 2014 without a team honor. Argentina lost to Germany in the World Cup

final, Bayern Munich goalkeeper Neuer keeping a clean sheet as he followed winning the German league and cup by lifting football's biggest prize. The last goalkeeper to make the Ballon D'Or top three was Gianluigi Buffon after Italy won the World Cup final in a shootout against France. Neuer earlier this month played down his chances of winning the top individual award in football by citing his lower profile away from the pitch, particularly his lack of photo shoots wearing underwear. Ronaldo, though, is one

of the most marketable men in sport - posing regularly in adverts when wearing little and celebrating scoring in the Champions League final in May by ripping off his shirt to show his muscled body to cameras. Although the two-time Ballon D'Or winner triumphed in the Champions League and UEFA Super Cup with Real Madrid this year, he scored only one goal at the World Cup as Portugal went out in the group stage. That solitary goal was not enough to make FIFA's goal of the year shortlist.

Two nominees for the Puskas Award were World Cup goals: James Rodriguez's volley for Colombia against Uruguay and Robin van Persie's header for the Netherlands against Spain. The shortlist was completed by an unfamiliar name with Ireland forward Stephanie Roche nominated for her goal for Peamount United, scored in front of a handful of fans in a domestic game against Wexford Youths. The FIFA ceremony in Zurich will also give awards to the best coaches in men's and women's football.



Barcelona's Lionel Messi, from Argentina, drives the ball past Valencia's Mustafi during a Spanish La Liga soccer match at the Mestalla stadium in Valencia, Spain, on Sunday, Nov. 30, 2014. AP



I'm going to have to work it out when we get to Adelaide and see how I feel' - Ryan Harris. Cricinfo

‘It’s going to be pretty bloody hard’ - Harris

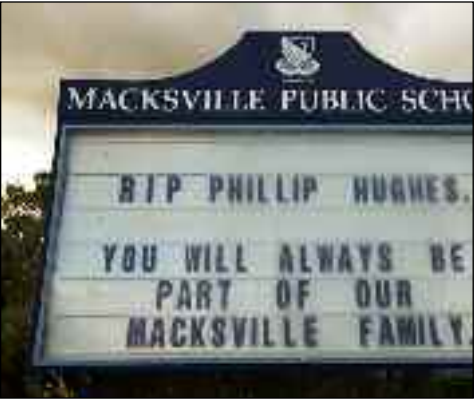
Sports Desk

Ryan Harris bowled sixty balls at Queensland training on Tuesday. Not a single one was a bouncer, reports Cricinfo. While this was primarily so he could hone issues of rhythm and technique, Harris' reluctance to send down a short ball spoke much for the changes wrought to cricket by the death of Phillip Hughes. So did the fact that two days out from what would have been day one of the Gabba Test, Harris was at Allan Border Field in his state colours. Harris, Mitchell Johnson, Peter Siddle and company must wrestle with one of the many awfully mixed emotions arising from Hughes' death. They have been reminded of the destructive power of the bouncer, reeled at this fact, and yet must eventually find a way to harness it again. It will take time. "It's inevitable it's going to happen - I've been bowling bouncers for a long time and I've hit guys before," Harris said in Brisbane. "It's part of the game but it just gives you that extra bit of doubt now about a very small percentage of what happened. I'm sure we'll get back eventually to the way we were playing last summer, but it's going to be tough because we base our game on aggression." That question will take longer to answer than a more immediate one,

around who will consider themselves fit to play in the first Test in Adelaide from December 9. Harris has experienced this dilemma before, when his mother Gai died of lung cancer in 2006. Even so, he remains unsure of when he will be ready. "I'm still thinking about it, I'll see how I go tomorrow," Harris said of Hughes' funeral in Macksville. "Every individual is different. Personally I've lost my mother before and the best thing for me was I was probably pushed to play for my father and my brother and it probably helped. But even still, it's going to be tough for some boys. It's going to be tough for me. "I'm going to have to work it out when we get to Adelaide and see how I feel. I feel good having been out today, which was good. Keeping busy this morning has allowed me not to sit around and think about tomorrow, to be honest. Each individual is different. The boys who were there and witnessed what happened ... I can't speak for them because I couldn't imagine what they're going through." There will be a lot of love, a lot of pain and a lot of shared memory of Hughes at his funeral in on Wednesday. Harris and his Australian team-mates are all making the trip, mainly via an overnight stay in Sydney on Tuesday. Many of their eyes

will be on their captain Michael Clarke, who will continue to carry a significant burden of friendship and leadership by speaking during the service. "We want him playing. He's our captain and our leader and through this whole thing he's shown why he is," Harris said. "He's hurting and he's had a lot to deal with, he's been just unbelievable. We've had some good chats as a group the last few days and he's just been fantastic. So we want him there, but we'll see how it goes. "We'd have liked a bit longer but that's just reality. There's a Test series on and there's games to be played. That's what we have to do. Those who can prepare will and those who can't will need more time. It's a 50/50 but the bottom line is we've got a date to work to now. The idea was we had a chat yesterday and we just wanted a date to work towards. Some guys can and some guys may not be able to. "Let's just get past tomorrow first. It's going to be pretty bloody hard. The thing about this is that no-one knows. No-one's been in the situation of losing a teammate and a very good mate and trying to play a cricket game less than a week later. No-one's been in that situation. We'll get through tomorrow, see how we all feel and get to Adelaide and regroup."

News in Brief



Hughes family wants big crowd at funeral

Sports Desk

Phillip Hughes' family hopes as many people as possible will attend his funeral in Macksville on Wednesday. Approximately 5000 mourners are expected to attend the funeral service, which will take place at 2pm in the sports hall at Macksville High School, with overflow areas on the school's two sports ovals. Cricket Australia also expect 300 to 400 dignitaries and past and present players to attend the service, including the entire New South Wales and Australia Test squads. James Henderson, Hughes' manager, told reporters in Macksville on Tuesday that despite the limited capacity of the school hall, the family hoped anyone who wanted to attend would do so.



Mario Balotelli sorry for Instagram post

Sports Desk

Liverpool striker Mario Balotelli has apologised for a post on social media which appeared to contain anti-Semitic and racist references. Balotelli, 24, quickly deleted the post from his Instagram page of Nintendo computer game character Super Mario. Before his apology, the Italian had tweeted to deny the text of the post was offensive. The Football Association has asked Balotelli for his observations and given him until 18:00 GMT on Friday to respond, while Liverpool say they will speak to the player. A spokesman for anti-discrimination group Kick It Out told BBC Sport.



Kostner calls doping accusations 'intolerable'

Sports Desk

Facing a lengthy ban, former figure skating world champion Carolina Kostner claimed in an interview Tuesday that she had nothing to do with the doping case involving her former boyfriend and Olympic race walking gold medalist Alex Schwazer. The Italian Olympic Committee's anti-doping prosecutor recommended Friday that Kostner be banned for four years and three months - longer than the 3 1/2-year ban that Schwazer is serving - for helping Schwazer evade a test and other infractions. The 27-year-old Kostner, the 2014 Olympic bronze medalist and 2012 world champion.

Crosswords

Quiz No-573

Answers of the Quiz No-574

DOWN

1. DOWN 1. Agreement 2. Teller of untruths 3. Aquatic plant 4. Adolescent 5. Amazing adventure 6. Piece of paper 7. Rip 8. Makes a mistake 9. Pecuniary 10. Reflexive form of "them" 11. Spouses 12. Mountain crest 13. Arid 21. Solemn promise 25. In the past 26. Indian music 27. Quaint outburst 28. Cancel 29. Frighten 30. Tubular pasta 31. Suspended 33. French for "Black" 34. Klutz's cry 35. Delight 36. Scream 38. Guitar player 41. Prompt 42. Sailing competition 44. Animal doctor 45. Excuse 46. Elder 47. Stacked 48. Gossip 50. Convenience 51. Eat 52. Trigonometry (abbrev.) 53. Greek letter 54. Electrical unit 55. Type of sword

ACROSS

1. Ancient Athenian philosopher 6. Flower stalk 10. It was (contraction) 14. Suffered 15. Protagonist 16. Employ 17. Canny 18. Acquire deservedly 19. Always 20. In a crosswise direction 22. Distribute 23. Drunkard 24. Thigh armor 26. Examine again 30. A type of virus 32. Severe pain 33. Brain science 37. Pace 38. Lad 39. Mouselike animal 40. Hooking 42. Fend off 43. Black-and-white diving bird 44. Boat 45. French farewell 47. Dowel 48. LummoX 49. Contemplative 56. Hello 57. Letters, etc. 58. A group of soldiers 59. Assist in crime 60. Feudal worker 61. Name of a book 62. Prong 63. Marsh plant 64. Marble



Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited opened Mirzapur Branch at Mirzapur Bazar, Tangail on Sunday as its 291st branch. Md. Akabbar Hossain, MP and Chairman, Standing committee for Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges inaugurated the branch as chief guest. The program was presided over by Mohammad Abdul Mannan, Managing Director of the Bank.

Dollar holds up, ruble rebounds

TOKYO: The dollar held steady in Asia Today after sliding on a rebound in oil prices, while the Russian ruble bounced back after its biggest one-day fall in 16 years, reports AFP/BSS.

In Tokyo, the greenback fetched 118.44 yen, against 118.40 yen in New York. The euro eased to \$1.2464 from \$1.2469, while it was flat at 147.64 yen.

The dollar has climbed since Thursday, when the OPEC oil cartel ignored calls to cut production in the face of a supply glut sending crude prices plunging to five-year lows. The greenback benefits from lower prices as they are considered a plus for the US economy.

However, analysts expect the dollar to resume its uptrend, saying the lift in oil prices may just be a technical correction.

The ruble rose after sinking almost nine percent to 53.9 against the greenback Monday, its worst one-day drop since Russia's debt meltdown in

1998. On Tuesday, it was at 51.2 to the dollar.

The Russian unit has lost 60 percent of its value against the dollar since the start of the year, pummelled by tumbling oil prices and Western sanctions over Moscow's support for Ukrainian separatists.

On Monday, the dollar briefly soared to a fresh seven-year high of 119.15 yen after Moody's cut its credit rating for Japan, putting it below China and South Korea and on par with Israel and the Czech Republic.

Moody's cited "rising uncertainty" over the country's debt situation after Prime Minister Shinzo Abe put off a planned sales tax hike that was aimed at curbing the country's massive public debt. "It seems Moody's impact (on the currency market) was only limited," Shusuke Yamada, chief FX strategist at Merrill Lynch Japan Securities, told Dow Jones Newswires.

"The underlying trend of the yen's

weakness (against the dollar) remains strong over the mid-term."

Investors are keeping tabs on a European Central Bank policy meeting later in the week to see if it unveils any fresh easing measures to fight off deflation, while a closely watched US jobs report will come out on Friday.

The dollar weakened against other Asia-Pacific currencies.

The Australian dollar rose to 85.04 US cents from 84.45 cents the previous day after the country's central bank held interest rates at a record low of 2.5 percent.

The dollar also fell to 32.80 Thai baht from 32.89 baht, to Sg\$1.3051 from Sg\$1.3083 and to 44.75 Philippine pesos from 44.95 pesos.

The greenback slipped to Tw\$31.03 from Tw\$31.05, to 1,105.30 South Korean won from 1,114.13 won, and to 61.97 Indian rupees from 62.14 rupees, while it was unchanged at 12,273.80 Indonesian rupiah.

Islami Bank opens 291st branch at Mirzapur

Business Desk

Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited opened Mirzapur Branch at Mirzapur Bazar, Tangail on Sunday as its 291st Branch, reports in a press release.

Md. Akabbar Hossain, MP and Chairman, Standing committee for Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges inaugurated the Branch as chief guest. Presided over by Mohammad Abdul Mannan, Managing Director of the Bank, the program was addressed by Muhammad Abul Bashar, Deputy Managing Director, Md. Motiar Rahman, Executive Vice President and Head of Mymensingh Zone, Salahuddin Ahmed Babar, Principal, Mirzapur University College, Salma Salam Urmi, former Vice Chairman of Mirzapur Upzila, Golam Faruk Siddiqui, president, Traders Association of Mirzapur, Mosharraf Hossain Moni, former Mayor, Mirzapur Municipality, Abdur Rashid, Officer in Charge of Mirzapur Thana and Kazi Rafiqul Islam Manager of Mirzapur Branch of the Bank. The program was also attended by local businessmen, professionals, and social elites.

India govt rejects tycoon Mallya as Kingfisher Airlines chief

MUMBAI: The Indian government has rejected the reappointment of liquor baron Vijay Mallya as head of his grounded and debt-laden Kingfisher Airlines, in yet another blow to the self-crowned "king of good times".

Kingfisher, once India's second-largest airline by passenger share, is under growing pressure to repay debts of nearly \$1.5 billion owed to a consortium of largely state-run banks. The airline has not made a profit since Mallya founded it in 2005. Its fleet was grounded in 2012. The company said the ministry of corporate affairs had rejected Mallya's application for reappointment, a move required under government regulations, without detailing why.

The ministry rejected the application "for reappointment of Vijay Mallya as managing director of the Company for a period of 5 years from October 16, 2013 without remuneration", the airline said in a statement to the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) on Monday night.

The move was widely expected after Mallya was declared a "wilful defaulter" by one of his bankers in September, a term that makes it difficult for him to find new lenders.

Earlier Monday another firm, Mangalore Chemicals & Fertilisers, told the BSE that Mallya had resigned from its board. It gave no reasons. The news lifted MCF shares sharply on the day. Kingfisher Airlines shares were suspended in November after stock exchange authorities demanded the carrier declare long-awaited financial results. Mallya made his fortune through an inherited liquor business and branched out with Kingfisher Airlines, named after his top-selling beer which is an Indian household name. But Mallya is struggling to retain control of his empire. Analysts says Kingfisher Airlines was a casualty of India's cut-throat fare wars in the congested sector.

The full-service Kingfisher, which boasted it treated flyers as "guests", never returned to the skies after pilots went on strike in 2012 over unpaid wages.

FBI warns firms of destructive malware use by hackers

The US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has warned that cyber-hackers have used malicious software to launch destructive attacks in the US.

A five-page confidential warning was issued to US businesses on Monday, according to Reuters news agency. The software would

make it impossible to recover any lost data, the FBI said. The warning follows a confirmation from the FBI that it is investigating last week's hack into Sony Pictures Entertainment's network.

Sony Pictures was forced to shut down its corporate network in the attack and

some of its unreleased films have also been leaked online.

But the warning from the US authorities did not name any victims that have been targeted. Instead, it provided some technical details about the malicious software and advice on how to handle such an attack. North Korea in the spotlight.



Shares in the Royal Mail are down 2.5%.

Reuters

Royal Mail's Ofcom review sparks share price fall

UK: Shares in the Royal Mail are down 2.5% after Ofcom ruled the universal postal service, which obliges the Royal Mail to deliver across the UK for one price, is not under threat, reports Reuters.

The regulator Ofcom said it saw no reason to change rules to force rivals to take on part of that obligation.

However, Ofcom said it would review the factors affecting Royal Mail's ability to deliver the universal service.

Royal Mail had complained competitors were cherry picking profitable areas.

Under postal market reforms, rivals can apply for a licence to collect, sort and deliver bulk mail. Other competitors, including Whistl, pay Royal Mail an access fee for it to deliver to customers. The government has guaranteed that the universal service will continue at least until 2021. Last week, Moya

Greene, the Royal Mail's chief executive, told a committee of MPs that the universal service cost £7.2bn a year to finance, so needed cross-subsidy from profitable urban deliveries.

She said Royal Mail had already seen a "structural" decline of between 4% and 6% in the volume of letters it handles every year. Royal Mail said it would comment on Ofcom's announcement later on Tuesday.

Ed Richards, chief executive of Ofcom, said: "Ofcom's board has considered all the evidence in the postal market carefully over the past few months.

"We have concluded that there is no present risk to the financial sustainability of the universal service. This conclusion is based on the Royal Mail's own business plan and evidence as well as a range of other data."

India keeps interest rates on hold

MUMBAI: India's central bank kept interest rates unchanged Today, saying a reduction would be "premature", reports AP.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said the benchmark repo rate -- the rate at which it lends to commercial banks -- would remain at a steep 8.0 percent, in line with analysts' expectations.

But it indicated that rates could fall early next year as inflation begins to slide.

Business leaders and finance minister Arun Jaitley, a member of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's right-wing government, have been clamouring for a cut in borrowing costs, which they say deter investment and consumer spending. "A change in the monetary policy stance at the current juncture is premature," the bank said in a statement. "However, if the current inflation momentum and changes in inflationary expectations continue, and fiscal developments are encouraging, a change in the monetary policy stance is likely early next year."

Tokyo stocks flat by break

TOKYO: Tokyo stocks slipped Today morning on early profit-taking as a strong yen and fall on Wall Street dragged the market lower, and after Moody's downgraded Japan's credit rating.

The Nikkei 225 index at the Tokyo Stock Exchange edged 0.02 percent, or 3.86 points, lower to 17,586.24 by the break, while the Topix index of all first-section issues was off 0.02 percent, or 0.29 points, at 1,421.36. "Stocks remain slightly overbought and sensitive to the dollar, so the Nikkei is likely in for a sluggish start," said Shunichi Otsuka, general manager of research and strategy at Ichiyoshi Asset Management.



Australia's central bank kept interest rates on hold at a record low 2.5%.

BBC

Australia's central bank holds interest rates at 2.5%

SYDNEY: Australia's central bank Today held interest rates at a record low 2.5 percent, signalling its intention to keep an accommodative monetary policy while saying a weaker exchange rate was needed to support growth, reports AFP/BSS.

It was the 15th consecutive meeting in which the Reserve Bank of Australia has left the cash rate unchanged, and reflected opposing pressures on the economy with a booming housing market and slumping commodity prices. In an unchanged commentary of the decision, bank governor Glenn Stevens said "monetary policy is appropriately configured to foster sustainable growth in demand and inflation outcomes consistent with the target". "On present indications, the most prudent course is likely to be a period of stability in interest rates." The bank reinforced its call for a weaker Australian dollar, which it believes is slowing a rebalancing of the economy away from mining-led growth as resources investment is expected to sharply fall off after an unprecedented boom. "A lower exchange rate is likely to be needed to achieve balanced growth in the economy," Stevens said in comments that

added to previous remarks that said the currency "remains above most estimates of its fundamental value". The Australian dollar, which was trading at about 84.80 US cents ahead of the statement, pushed higher to 85.12 cents in the afternoon. The RBA also noted the significant decline in commodity price falls in recent months on the back of softer demand and a supply glut, which has hit Australian mining firms and government coffers. "For me the reference to commodity price falls having been significant was important," Westpac chief currency strategist Robert Rennie told AFP.

"That would suggest that the RBA would like to see further weakness in the Australian dollar well below the 85 US cents mark," he said. "Obviously the reference to the fact that a lower exchange rate is likely to be needed to achieve balanced growth in the economy I think is an important warning as well."

Markets have increased expectations that the central bank will cut rates in the next year as commodity prices slump, and with an unemployment rate that has edged up to a decade-high above 6.0 percent over the past few months.

Oil takes breather in Asian trade

SINGAPORE: Crude prices fell in Asia Today but losses were curbed as dealers took a breather after days of sharp sell-offs following OPEC's decision to hold output levels despite global oversupply, reports UNB.

US benchmark West Texas Intermediate (WTI) for January delivery was down 46 cents at \$68.54 while Brent crude for January dipped 41 cents to \$72.13 in afternoon trade.

Research house Capital Economics said "a degree of calm was returning to the markets" after a free-fall that saw both contracts plunge to five-year lows.

Daniel Ang, investment analyst at Phillip Futures in Singapore, said "prices remain volatile as the market adjusts after last week's 10 percent drop".

Singapore's GIC to buy US industrial landlord IndCor for \$8.1 bn

SINGAPORE: Singapore sovereign wealth fund GIC will buy IndCor Properties, one of the biggest industrial landlords in the United States, from parent firm Blackstone for a whopping \$8.1 billion, the companies said yesterday, reports AFP/BSS.

Blackstone said in a statement posted on its website that the deal is expected to close in the first

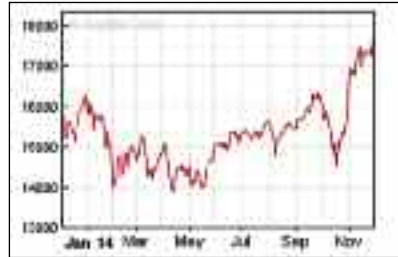
quarter of next year.

It said that as a result of the transaction, Chicago-based IndCor will no longer be pursuing an initial public offering. "GIC confirms the investment in IndCor," a spokeswoman for the Singapore fund told AFP.

"We built IndCor through 18 acquisitions to be one of the largest industrial estate companies in the United

States. We are excited about the company's future prospects under new long-term ownership with GIC," IndCor chief executive Tim Beaudin said in the statement.

According to Blackstone, IndCor "owns and operates a portfolio of 117 million square feet (11 million square metres) of high-quality properties in key markets throughout the United States".



JAPAN : Japan's Nikkei closed at a fresh seven-year high on Tuesday as investor sentiment was buoyed by talk of the Bank of Japan (BoJ) buying stocks, reports AP. The benchmark Nikkei 225 closed up 0.4% at 17,663.22 points.

Earlier, the index had fallen after Moody's Investment Service cut Japan's credit rating by one notch to A1 from Aa3. Moody's move underlined concerns over Japan's economy after an increase in the national sales tax was delayed. But analysts said the weaker yen, together with the possible move by

the BoJ, was continuing to support investor sentiment. China shares rallied on speculation that the country's central bank was preparing to reduce bank

reserve requirement ratios sooner than expected on recent economic data showing a much weaker economy. In Hong Kong, the Hang Seng index closed up 1.2% at 23,654.30, while the Shanghai Composite rose 3.1%, to 2,763.54 - its best daily rise since September 2013. Australia's benchmark S&P/ASX 200 index closed up 1.4% at 5,281.30 points.

The upward movement in Australia followed the biggest fall since 10 October on Monday amid a sell-off in mining and energy related shares.

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Court to rule on supplementary charge sheet of Kibria murder case today

HABIGANJ : A court here is likely to pass an order today on the supplementary charge sheet of the AMS Kibria murder case as police last month submitted the revised report accusing 11 more people as new suspects, reports BSS.

Court officials and lawyers said Senior Judicial Magistrate of Habiganj Rokeya Akhter is likely to issue the ruling on the revised charge sheet submitted by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) on November 23.

CID's assistant superintendent Meherunnesa Parul in her report named the 11 fresh suspects who are mayor of Sylhet Ariful Haque Chowdhury, fugitive BNP leader Harris Chowdhury, former mayor of Habiganj Golam Kibria Gaus, Mufti Abdul Hye, Mufti Taj Uddin, Mufti Safiqur Rahman, Mohammad Ali, Badrul, Mohibur Rahman, Kajol Ahmed and Hafej Yahia.

ACC to probe afresh PWD chief engineer's alleged graft

DHAKA : The Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) in a fresh move will probe the alleged grafts of Public Works Department (PWD) chief engineer Md Kabir Ahmed Bhuiyan, reports UNB.

Four private firms earlier submitted allegations to the Commission, mentioning that Kabir Ahmed managed a fake freedom fighter certificate although he did not take part in the Liberation War in 1971, official sources said. There were also allegations that the PWD chief engineer managed promotion without following rules and amassed huge wealth through illegal means.

The ACC officials said considering the complaints, the Commission has decided to launch fresh probe against the PWD top boss. On November 26, the national anti-graft body decided to launch a probe into the alleged grafts that emerged against Kabir Ahmed, but no inquiry officer has yet been appointed to carry out the probe against him.



Workers are busy cleaning the Rayer Bazaar Martyr Memorial ahead of the Intellectual Killing Day. The picture was taken on Tuesday. Photo : Banglar Chokh

Stay alert about local, int'l conspiracies against RMG sector : Minister

'93pc factories in USA don't have unions'

DHAKA : State Minister for Labour and Employment M Mujibul Haque Chunnun on Tuesday urged the apparel makers to stay alert saying conspiracies, both at home and abroad, are on to destroy the country's vital readymade garment sector, reports UNB.

"Please stay alert. Conspiracies, both domestically and internationally, are there to destroy the sector," he told a workshop in the city.

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) in association with Labour and Employment Ministry and UNFPA arranged the orientation workshop for the garment factory owners on 'Changing Gender Norms of Garment Employees (ChaNGE)' at the BGMEA conference room.

Labour Secretary Mikail Shipar, UNFPA Representative in Bangladesh Argentina Matavel Piccin and BGMEA President M Atiqul Islam, among others, spoke on the occasion. Criticising outgoing US Ambassador (Dan W Mozena) in Dhaka, the State Minister said he finds no logic behind too much talks though 93 percent factories do not have union practice. "To my knowledge, only 6.9 percent factories (in USA) have unions. The rest - 93 percent -- don't have," he said.

Mujibul Haque also said if Bangladesh

does not export apparels they (western consumers) will not be able to source required for them.

The State Minister said he wanted to see how unions work in US factories and conveyed his interest to the US Ambassador. "Unfortunately, he (US envoy) didn't tell anything about it till now."

Appreciating progress in the RMG sector, Mujibul Haque urged the owners to improve working conditions further and visit factories frequently for deeper owners-workers relations. He also said sexual harassment in the women-dominated garment industry has dropped significantly. "It's quite impossible in the RMG industry as most of the workers are female."

The BGMEA President said there is heartburning among others as Bangladesh is doing excellent in the apparel manufacturing. "BGMEA is committed to taking forward the industry ensuring workers' welfare, dignity and safety." He urged all to work together to move ahead for reaching US\$ 50 billion export landmark by 2021.

Argentina Piccin said Bangladesh has really shown improvement in women empowerment. "It's the RMG sector that has contributed a lot towards empowering women."

Sagor-Runi murder Accused Tanvir gets interim bail

DHAKA : The High Court on Tuesday granted interim bail to Tanvir Rahman, an accused in the Sagor-Runi murder case, until police submits report in the case, reports UNB.

The HC bench comprising Justice Md Nizamul Huq and Justice ASH Nurul Huda Jaigirdar granted the bail upon a petition filed by Tanvir.

The HC also issued a rule asking the authorities concerned to explain as to why he should not be granted permanent bail in the case.

Earlier, on September 2, another HC bench comprising Justice Md Rezaul Haque and Justice Gobinda Chandra Tagore returned Tanvir's bail petition citing personal reasons, said Tanvir's counsel Fawzia Karim.

Sagar Sarowar, news editor at private TV channel Maasranga, and his wife Meherun Runi, a senior reporter at another TV channel, ATN Bangla, were killed in the small hours on February 11, 2012 at their rented apartment in the capital's West Rajabazar. A case was later filed with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station over the gory incident.

CJ wants steps to check graft in judiciary

DHAKA : Chief Justice M Muzammel Hossain on Tuesday asked the heads of various tiers of the lower judiciary to take effective steps to check corruption, reports UNB.

"I take serious note of it the information relating to corruption of any judicial officer or staff since there is a room for corruption in the judiciary," the Chief Justice told a judges' conference held at the Supreme Court auditorium. He further said, "My stance against corruption is very firm and clear. Any negligence over corruption won't be tolerated as corruption begets injustice."

Muzammel Hossain noted that if injustice takes place at a place then there appears a threat to justice all over.

The Chief Justice made it clear that he will not take cognisance of any complaint of harassing judges, but he will take the allegation into consideration if it is sound, and such allegation will be investigated by a competent judge. "If the corruption charge is proved, stern actions will be taken against the judicial officer or employee," he said. The Chief Justice also advised the judges to stop staying hearings or entertaining time petitions to ensure the quick disposal of cases. He also advised them to attend courts in time.

Over 300 judges, including District Judges, Chief Judicial Magistrates, Chief Metropolitan Magistrates and holding equivalent posts equivalent responsibilities attended the function, conducted by SC registrar-in-charge SM Quddus Zaman.

5 put on 2-day remand over RU teacher killing

RAJSHAHI : A court here on Tuesday placed five people on a two-day remand in connection with the murder of Rajshahi University (RU) teacher Prof AKM Shafiu Islam, reports UNB.

Judge of the Metropolitan Magistrate Court-3 Sharmin Akhter passed the order when police produced them before her court seeking a 10-day remand for each of them.

Those remanded are Ariful Islam Manik, Abdus Salam Pintu, Sabuj Sheikh, Sirajul Islam Kalu and Mamun.

On November 23, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members arrested six people, including the five, in connection with the brutal killing of Prof Shafiu Islam. They were sent to jail on November 25.

Bangladesh : a battle field for Hijra

AHMED NUR

The term 'third gender' commonly known as 'Hijra group' describes individuals who are being categorized as neither man nor woman. Some anthropologists and sociologists have described the term "third" to mean "other" species or another gender.

Biologically, 'Hijra' or transgender is usually the result of chromosomal or hormonal defects or complications arising from psychological problems.

Terming them 'the spirit of a man in the body of a woman', a Dhaka University Prof. S.E. Habib marked the term 'third gender' as an intermediate state between man and woman. "Many Hijras earn their livelihood by enforcing goes to confer them money and threatens to curse them otherwise. Many also work as sex workers", he added.

"Despite the spelling of



Hijra including that of a 'z' or a 'j', they are referred to as Hijras in both English and Bangla language. Any other translation in English was misleading, informs Ministry of Social Welfare.

The beginning of the evolution of 'third gender' is unknown, but according to ethnologists, the growth of Hijra begun along with the spread of human species. Some western scholars have sought to understand the term 'third gender' in terms of 'sexual orientation,' several other scholars, especially

the native non-western scholars, consider this as a misrepresentation of third genders. These individuals suffer from denial of rights from their families and society forcing them to live together in impervious communities.

There is limited data on the estimated population of Bangladesh's transgender community, however, around more than 10,000 Hijras are enlisted.

Organizations, especially the NGO's have been working for the 'Hijra group' demanding their official recognition as a third gender.

On November 11, 2013, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, approved the recognition of 'Third gender', enabling them to identify their gender as 'Hijra' in all government documents. Neighboring countries India, Nepal and Pakistan had already given the recognition beforehand.

To be continued in next issue

Monkey on the loose in Florida has cops working 'tirelessly'

INTERESTING NEWS

Florida authorities vowed on Friday to capture a monkey last seen running through a Tampa neighborhood that they described as "three-foot tall, brown and fast."

A resident initially reported seeing a fleet-footed monkey running through a yard in the middle of a sunny Thanksgiving Day afternoon, Tampa police

said. An hour later, another caller spotted a monkey about a dozen blocks away, near a bridge on a road that is several miles (km) from downtown Tampa.

"There is no probable cause for this monkey's arrest, however, we will work tirelessly to apprehend him," Tampa police said in a Facebook post.



Patuakhali war crimes: Charge hearing on Forkan Dec 9

DHAKA : The International Crimes Tribunal-2 on Tuesday took cognisance of the charge brought against detained Forkan Mallik, now a BNP activist of Patuakhali, in the case of crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War, reports UNB.

With the accused in the dock, the three-member tribunal, headed by Justice Obaidul Hassan, passed the order, after perusing the formal charge submitted by the prosecution and the relevant documents relating to the war crimes case.

Passing the order, the tribunal fixed December 9 for hearing on charge framing.

On October 27, the investigation agency of the International Crimes Tribunals finalised its investigation report against war crimes-suspect Forkan, also a former activist of Muslim League (Convention) in Pakistan period that opposed the Liberation War of Bangladesh.

The prosecution proposed eight charges of the 1971 crimes against humanity like killing, genocide, rape, deportation, loot, arson attack and forcible conversion of Hindus to Muslims.



The indigenous people celebrated the anniversary of the CHT peace treaty amidst the ongoing controversies. The picture taken on Tuesday shows a group of Marma walking the rally in celebration.

Textbooks to reach all upazilas by Dec 25

DHAKA : About 72 per cent textbook which will be distributed free of cost among the primary and secondary-level students have already reached to the upazilas and the rest will reach to all the upazilas across the country by December 25, sources of the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) Authority said here yesterday, reports BSS.

Prof M Abul Quasem Mia, chairman of NCTB, told BSS that about 71.85 per cent books have reached to the upazila-level by this time and the rest would reach to the destinations by 25 of this month.

The primary and secondary-level students will get the new books by January 1, said the NCTB official. A total of 238 organizations including an

Indian have got the work orders to publish the book and to reach it to the upazila-level, said the official.

As per the work order, publications and bindings of around 32 crore 58 lakh 44 thousand 493 books have already been completed and it would be distributed among four crore 44 lakh 52 thousand 374 students. Out of the books, a number of 22 crore 54 lakh 59 thousand 700 books have already been reached at the upazila level.

The NCTB chairman, however, said that hundred per cent books for the Ibtedaye level students have already reached at all the upazilas in the country. About 1,79,69,420 books have been prepared for some 25,03,032 Ibtedaye students across the country, said the official.

3 held for 'attempt to dig up Dr Mahjabin's body'

BENAPOLE : Police on Monday night arrested three people from Karbala graveyard in the Jessore district while they were trying to dig up the body of Dr Shamarukh Mahjabin Shama' who had been killed allegedly by her in-laws on November 13, reports UNB.

The arrestees were identified as Badruzzohra, 32, son of Kamruzzaman, a resident of Puratan Kasha Kanthaltala area, Suman, 28, son of Abdus Salam, a resident of Kholadanga area of the district town and Kamal Arif Tushar, 30, son of Mostafa Nurul Islam, a resident of Noapara village in Sadar upazila. Hemayet Hossain, sub-inspector of Kotwali Model Police Station, said a team of police arrested the trio from Karbala graveyard in the area while they were trying to dig up the body of Dr Mahjabin at about 9:30 pm.

Engineer Nurul Islam, father of Dr Mahjabin, feared that the body of his daughter might be stolen from the grave. He submitted a written application to the authorities of the Karbala Graveyard for the protection of the grave on Saturday afternoon.

Consequently, policemen were deployed in the grave.